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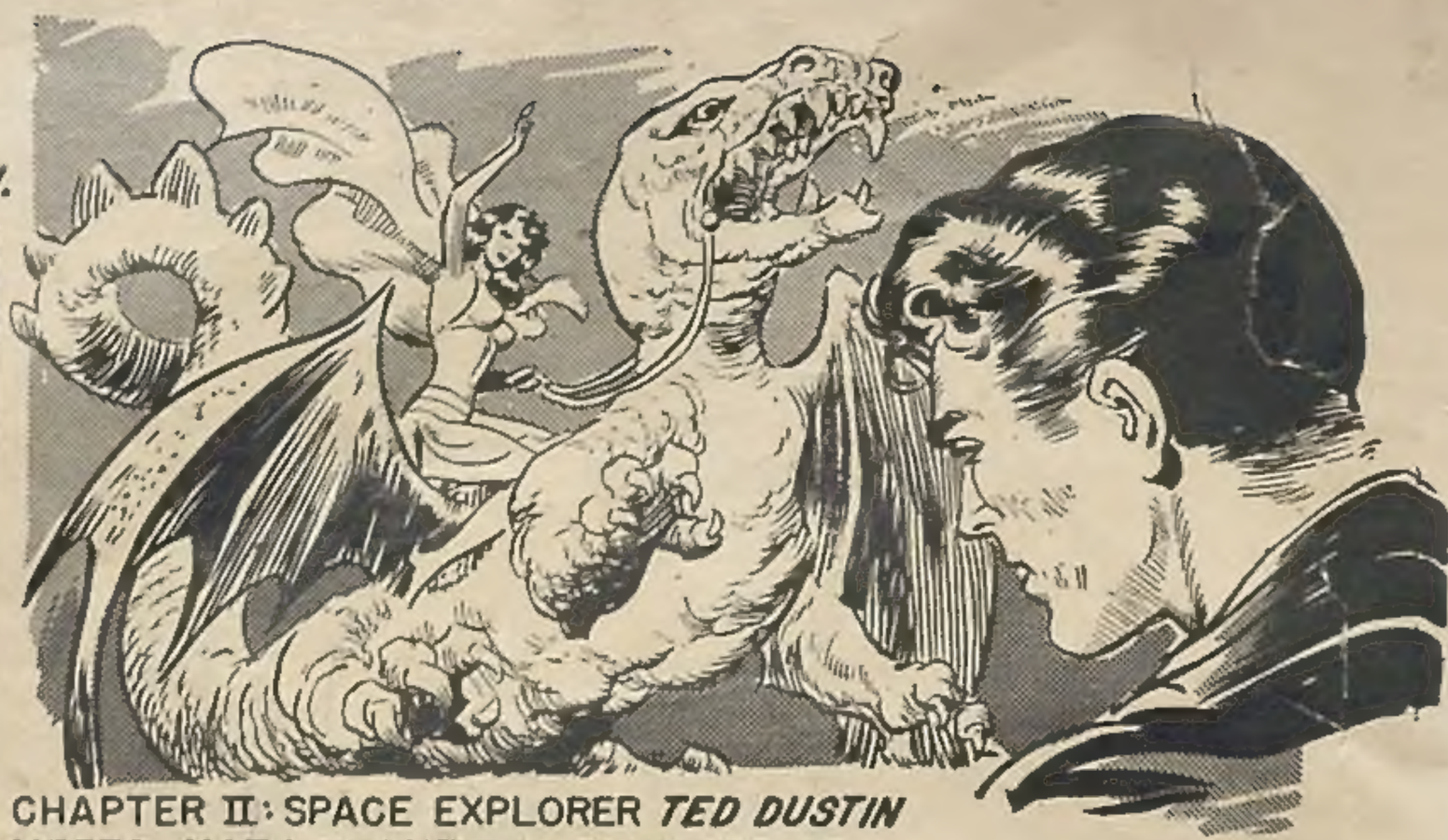
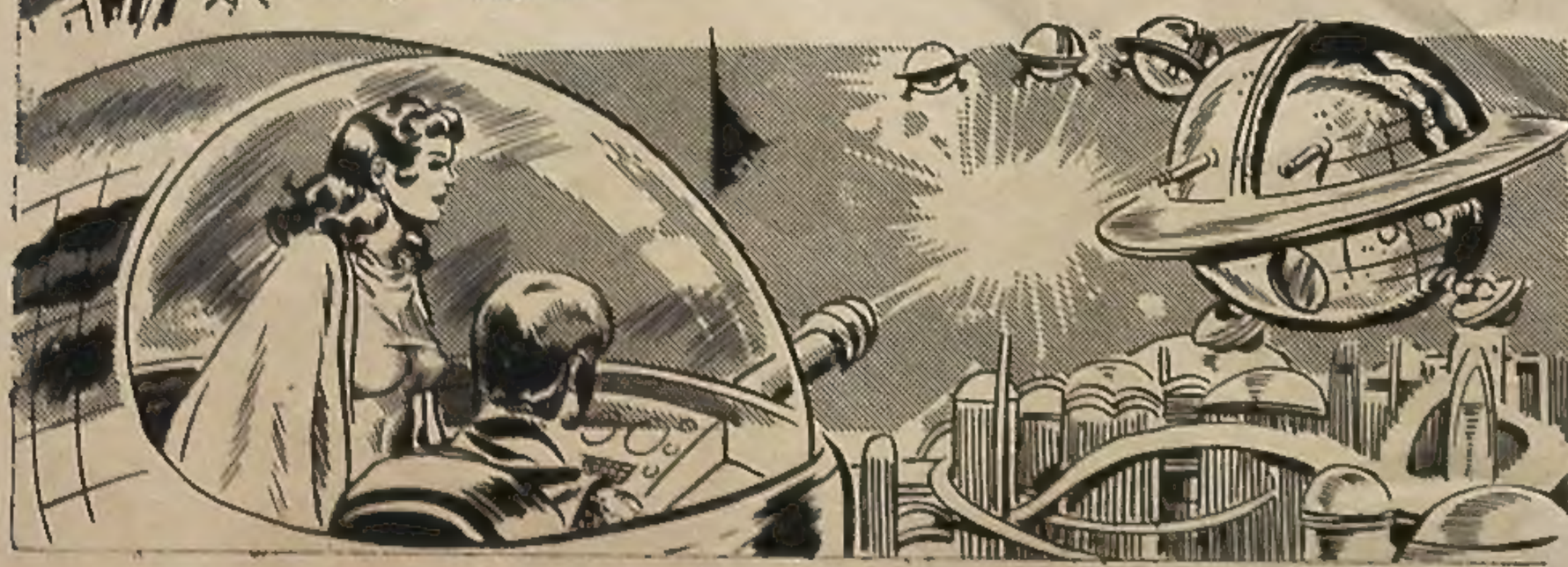
ROCKET TO THE MOON
Could TED DUSTIN, rocket explorer, and MAZA, beautiful princess of Lunar, stem the powerful hordes of GREEN MONSTERS who sought to conquer the World?

CHAPTER I: *WAR* BETWEEN THE *WORLD* AND *MOON!* SEE THE GREAT CITIES OF THE WORLD *BLOWN-UP* BY MYSTERIOUS MISSILES FROM THE *MOON.*



CHAPTER II: SPACE EXPLORER *TED DUSTIN* MEETS *MAZA*, BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS OF *LUNAR* AND HER PET *DRAGON!* COULD THEY STEM THE *YELLOW HORDES* FROM THE MOON, WHO SOUGHT TO *CONQUER* THE WORLD?

CHAPTER III: CAN *TED DUSTIN* SAVE *PRINCESS MAZA* FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE GIANT BIRD? WATCH THE *TITANIC* STRUGGLE BETWEEN *BIRD AND MAN,* AS THEY BATTLE FOR POSSESSION OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS!



CHAPTER IV: SEE, THE STRUGGLE FOR *SURVIVAL* BETWEEN THE YELLOW LUNITES FROM THE MOON AND *PRINCESS MAZA* AIDED BY *TED DUSTIN!* THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF *TWO WORLDS!*

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ROCKET to the MOON

FROM *OUT OF SPACE* CAME DEADLY BOMBS... *EARTH'S* GREATEST CITIES LAY IN RUINS AND STRANGE, *GLOBULAR SPACE SHIPS* MANNED BY *YELLOW MONSTERS*, ATTACKED OUR AIR FLEETS! PITTED AGAINST THESE ATTACKERS WERE *TED DUSTIN*, MASTER SCIENTIST OF EARTH, AND *MAZA*, BEAUTIFUL WHITE PRINCESS OF LUNAR. BUT COULD THEY STEM THE POWERFUL FORCE WHO SOUGHT TO *CONQUER THE WORLD*?...

THE OFFICE OF TED DUSTIN, YOUTHFUL PRESIDENT OF THEODORE DUSTIN INC., LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF SUNPOWER UNITS IN THE WORLD... AUGUST, 1964...

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY SAY THAT SEPTEMBER 20TH WILL BE THE MOST FAVORABLE DAY FOR MY ATTEMPT TO REACH THE MOON WITH MY PROJECTILE.

WHERE DO YOU EXPECT TO MAKE YOUR TRIAL FROM, MR. DUSTIN.

FROM THE GALOPAGOS ISLANDS. TOMORROW MY ASSISTANT, ROGER SAUNDERS AND I LEAVE TO LOAD AND POINT THE ROCKET.

HOW WILL WE ON EARTH KNOW WHETHER YOUR PROJECTILE ACTUALLY REACHED THE MOON.

IN THE HEAD OF THE PROJECTILE IS A CHARGE OF EXPLOSIVE. WHEN IT STRIKES ANYTHING IT GIVES OFF A VIVID FLASH AND THICK SMOKE THAT WILL BE SEEN BY OBSERVERS ON EARTH.

WELL, BEST OF LUCK, MR. DUSTIN. WE'LL BE WATCHING.

A FEW WEEKS LATER ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 20TH AS TED AND ROGER PREPARE TO FIRE THE ROCKET FROM THEIR PLANE MORE THAN 250 MILES AWAY FROM THE LAUNCHING SITE...

TWO TWENTY EIGHT... TWO TWENTY NINE... AND TWO THIRTY!

HERE SHE GOES!

FOR A MOMENT NOTHING HAPPENS, AND THEN...

WHEW! LOOK AT THAT! ...TED, IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?

I'M AFRAID WE STARTED SOMETHING WE DIDN'T COUNT ON. WE'VE BLOWN THE TOP OFF THE ISLAND VOLCANO. GET READY FOR TROUBLE.

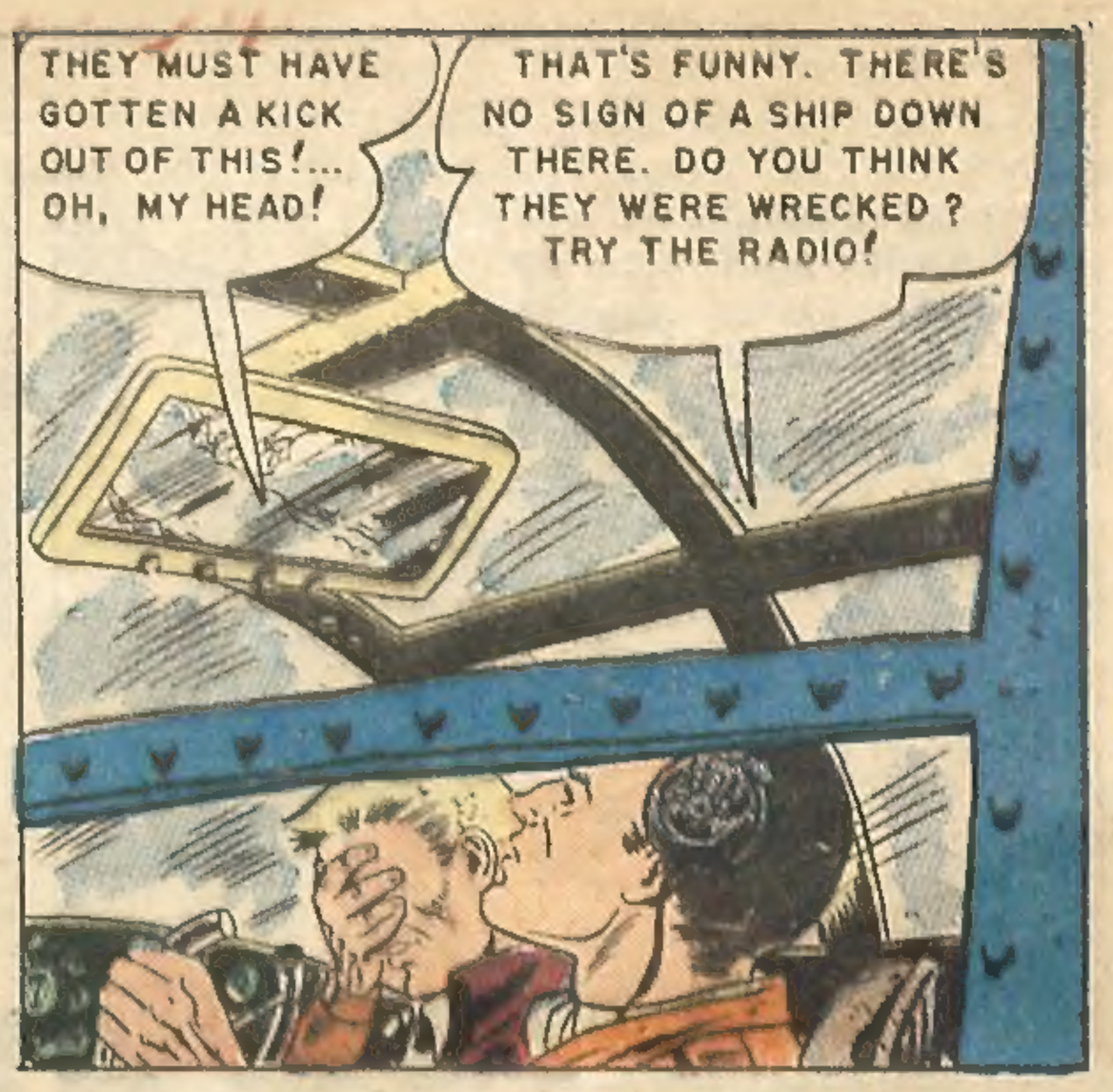
I'LL GIVE HER ALL SHE'S GOT. WE'VE GOT TO TRY AND RISE ABOVE THE SHOCK!

HERE IT IS!... *YEII!*

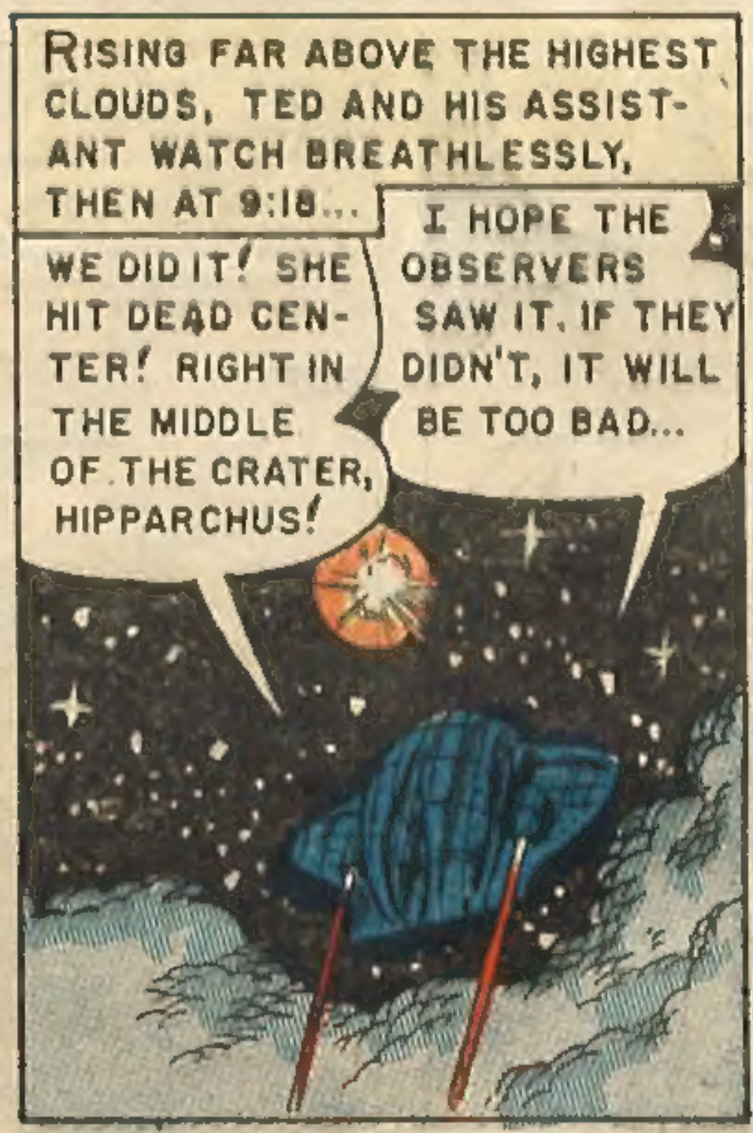
TED, WE'RE DONE FOR...UHH!

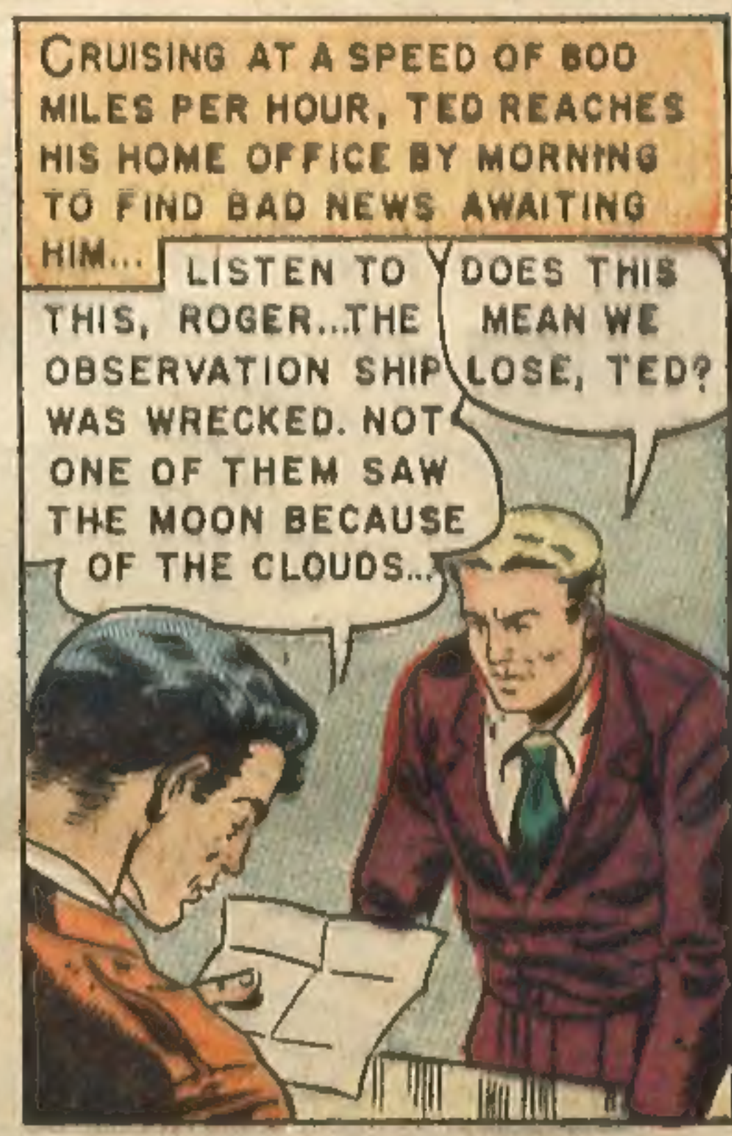
NOT IF I CAN PULL HER OUT OF THIS SPIN... I'VE GOT TO...

THEN, WHEN IT SEEMS AS IF THEY MUST SURELY CRASH...
OHHH! WH...WHAT HAPPENED?
WE WERE CAUGHT IN THE BACKWASH OF THE EXPLOSION. WE'RE SAFE NOW! I'LL HEAD FOR THE NAVY OBSERVATION SHIP.


THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN A KICK OUT OF THIS!... OH, MY HEAD!
THAT'S FUNNY. THERE'S NO SIGN OF A SHIP DOWN THERE. DO YOU THINK THEY WERE WRECKED? TRY THE RADIO!

CAN'T, EVERY TUBE IS BURNED OUT. A NICE MESS WE'VE GOTTEN INTO.
I'M GOING UP! I'VE GOT TO SEE WHETHER THAT ROCKET HITS THE MOON OR NOT. HANG ON!


RISING FAR ABOVE THE HIGHEST CLOUDS, TED AND HIS ASSISTANT WATCH BREATHLESSLY, THEN AT 9:18...
WE DID IT! SHE HIT DEAD CENTER! RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CRATER, HIPPARCHUS!
I HOPE THE OBSERVERS SAW IT. IF THEY DIDN'T, IT WILL BE TOO BAD...


CRUISING AT A SPEED OF 800 MILES PER HOUR, TED REACHES HIS HOME OFFICE BY MORNING TO FIND BAD NEWS AWAITING HIM...
LISTEN TO THIS, ROGER...THE OBSERVATION SHIP WAS WRECKED. NOT ONE OF THEM SAW THE MOON BECAUSE OF THE CLOUDS...
DOES THIS MEAN WE LOSE, TED?

IT MEANS THAT THEODORE DUSTIN INC., WILL BE SOLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF CREDITORS...LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL, WITHIN THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS.
TOUGH LUCK, OLD MAN. PERHAPS WE HAVEN'T LOST YET.

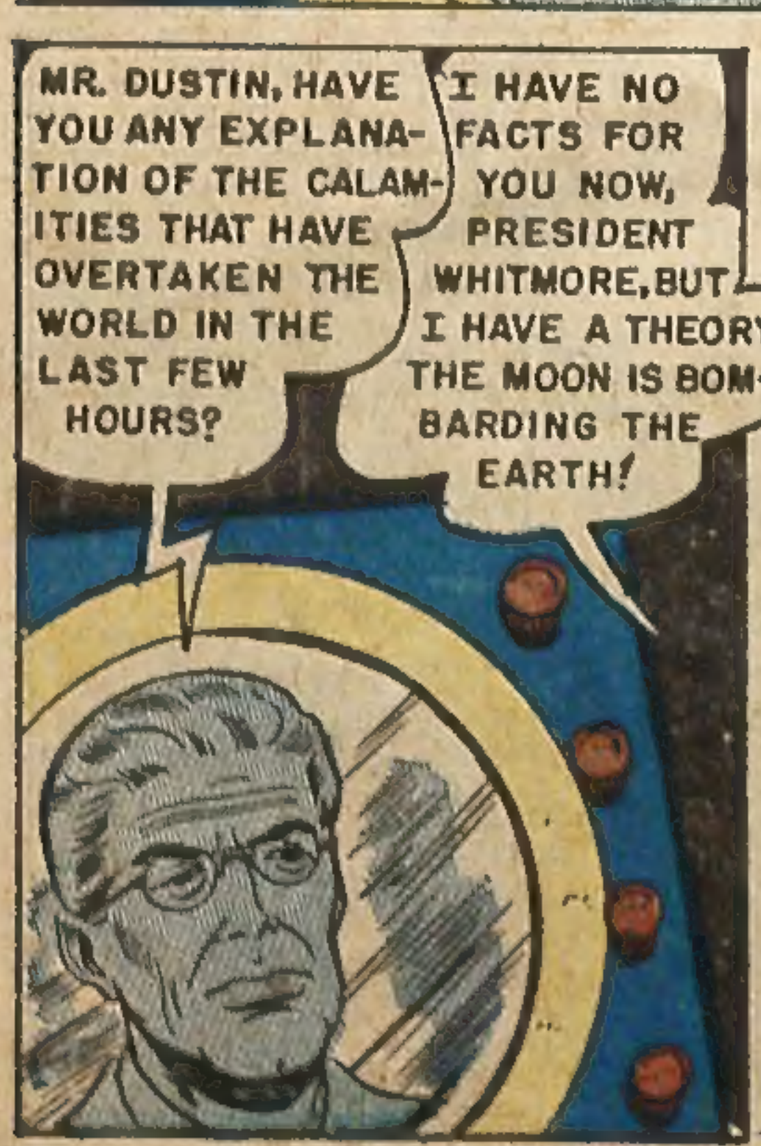
THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS THE TWO ARE BUSY WITH WINDING UP THEIR BUSINESS AFFAIRS. THEN ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 6TH...
TED! LOOK AT THIS NEWSPAPER! THEY SAY YOUR ROCKET CAME BACK TO EARTH AND NEARLY DESTROYED LONDON!
WHAT! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! LET ME SEE THAT!

THEY MAKE ME SICK. IN ORDER TO CREATE HEADLINES THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE A WHOLESALE MURDERER OUT OF ME. I'M TIRED OF THE WHOLE BUSINESS!
MR. DUSTIN! STATION WNB-437 HAS AN IMPORTANT FLASH. SHALL I TURN IT ON?
YES, SALLY.
EXTRA EXTRA
EXPLOSION NEAR LONDON!
THOUSANDS KILLED, FIRST REPORTS
MAY BE DUSTIN'S ROCKET RETURNED TO EARTH

A PROJECTILE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH HIT LONDON HAS FALLEN INTO THE HEART OF PARIS WITH TERRIFIC LOSS OF LIFE! ANOTHER DROPPED INTO NEW YORK BAY NARROWLY MISSING THE CITY...
THAT LETS ME OUT!

PROFESSOR FOWLER OF YERKES OBSERVATORY STATES THAT BETWEEN ONE AND FOUR THIS MORNING FIVE DISTINCT FLASHES APPEARED ON THE MOON...

SUDDENLY THERE IS AN INTERRUPTION ON THE VISI-SCREEN...
I HAD TO TUNE WNB-437 OUT, MR. DUSTIN. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS CALLING.
TUNE HIM IN!


MR. DUSTIN, HAVE YOU ANY EXPLANATION OF THE CALAMITIES THAT HAVE OVERTAKEN THE WORLD IN THE LAST FEW HOURS?
I HAVE NO FACTS FOR YOU NOW, PRESIDENT WHITMORE, BUT I HAVE A THEORY. THE MOON IS BOMBARDING THE EARTH!

YOU MEAN YOU BELIEVE THE MOON TO BE INHABITED AND THAT THESE EXPLOSIONS WERE REPRISALS FOR THE ONE YOU SENT UP THERE?
THAT IS MY BELIEF, MR. PRESIDENT.

THEN, MR. DUSTIN, YOU ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE WITH THE ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF EARTH FOR THIS CALAMITY. WE EXPECT YOU TO STOP IT. ALL OUR POWER IS AT YOUR COMMAND.
I'LL DO MY BEST, MR. PRESIDENT.

THE NEXT WEEKS WERE ONES OF DESPERATE PREPARATION...AT LAST...

IT IS THE ZERO HOUR, GENTLEMEN. WE ARE ABOUT TO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE MOON. I SHALL START MY MESSAGE.

PEOPLE OF THE MOON, OUR MISSION IS ONE OF PEACE...OUR PURPOSE IS TO MAKE AN APOLOGY FOR THE WRONG DONE YOU. WILL YOU ANSWER US...

TED! LOOK BEHIND YOU!

SHE'S SAYING SOMETHING!

ANOTHER STATION IS CUTTING IN! I'M LOSING HER!

LOOK AT THAT!

DR. WU, CAN YOU UNDERSTAND HIM?

A LITTLE. IT SOUNDS LIKE VERY ANCIENT CHINESE.

TIEN! TIEN! ...SHANG TI... P'AN-KU!

P'AN-KU! ASTOUNDING! TIEN IS THE OLDEST WORD OF OUR LANGUAGE AND MEANS HEAVEN...SHANG TI MEANS GOD AND P'AN-KU MEANS THE FIRST HUMAN LIKE ADAM.

FROM WHICH WE MIGHT DEDUCE THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE REMOTELY RELATED TO YOUR ANCESTORS!

SO IT SEEMS. IF YOU WILL LET ME HAVE THE PHONETIC AND WRITTEN RECORDS, AND A FAST ELECTROPLANE, I BELIEVE BY CONSULTING OUR ANCIENT WRITINGS I CAN MAKE A TRANSLATION IN A FEW DAYS.

GOOD. BOTH WILL BE READY IN AN HOUR.

THREE DAYS LATER THE TRANSLATION ARRIVES...

MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEWS IS NOT GOOD. THE MOON PEOPLE CLAIM WE DESTROYED UR, ONE OF THEIR LANDS AND THAT THEY WILL TAKE US OVER.

I SEE. I'LL CALL A COUNCIL OF EARTH GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY AND WE'LL DRAFT A REPLY.

A REPLY IS DRAFTED ASKING FOR PEACE AND AGAIN TED ATTEMPTS TO SEND THE MESSAGE TO THE MOON.

I HOPE THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THIS TRANSLATION OF DOCTOR WU'S...ROGER! LOOK! IT'S THE GIRL!

QUICK! SHOW HER THE REPLY BEFORE SHE'S GONE!

LOOK, SHE SEEMS HORRIFIED BY OUR MESSAGE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. DON'T THEY WANT PEACE? I'M GOING TO TRY AND TALK WITH HER.

TED DUSTIN!

MAZA AN MA GONG!

THEN ONCE MORE THE GIRL'S PICTURE FADES OUT AND IS REPLACED BY THAT OF THE UGLY P'AN-KU...

I DON'T LIKE THIS. THERE'S SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT THIS MESSAGE. WE'RE GOING TO CHECK ON IT.

A GOOD IDEA, TED. I'LL GET PROFESSOR EDERSON. HE KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT ANCIENT CHINESE AS ANY ONE IN THE WORLD.

BUT THAT NIGHT A NEW CATASTROPHE HITS EARTH AS FIVE OTHER GREAT CITIES GO UP IN SMOKE...

WARRROOOM!

MEANWHILE AT TED'S LAB, PROFESSOR EDERSON THROWS SOME STARTLING LIGHT ON DR. WU'S TRANSLATION...

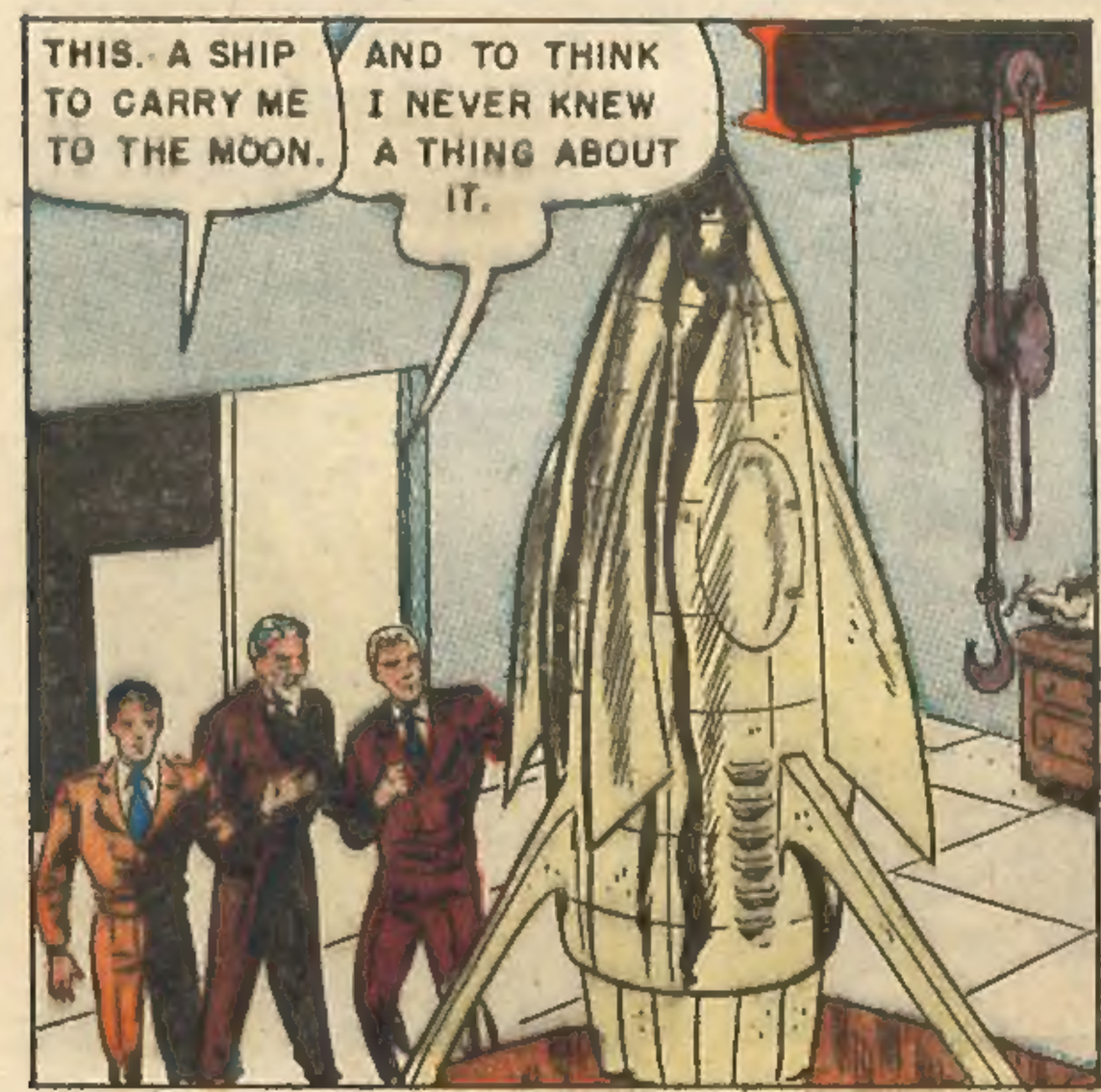
GENTLEMEN, INSTEAD OF A PEACE OFFERING THE MESSAGE GIVEN YOU BY WU WAS PRACTICALLY A DECLARATION OF WAR.

WHEW! NO WONDER MAZA WAS HORRIFIED AND P'AN-KU SNEERED. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR IT.

BUT WHY WOULD HE DO A THING LIKE THAT?
I THINK THERE'S A SECRET ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF P'AN-KU AND THE CHINESE.

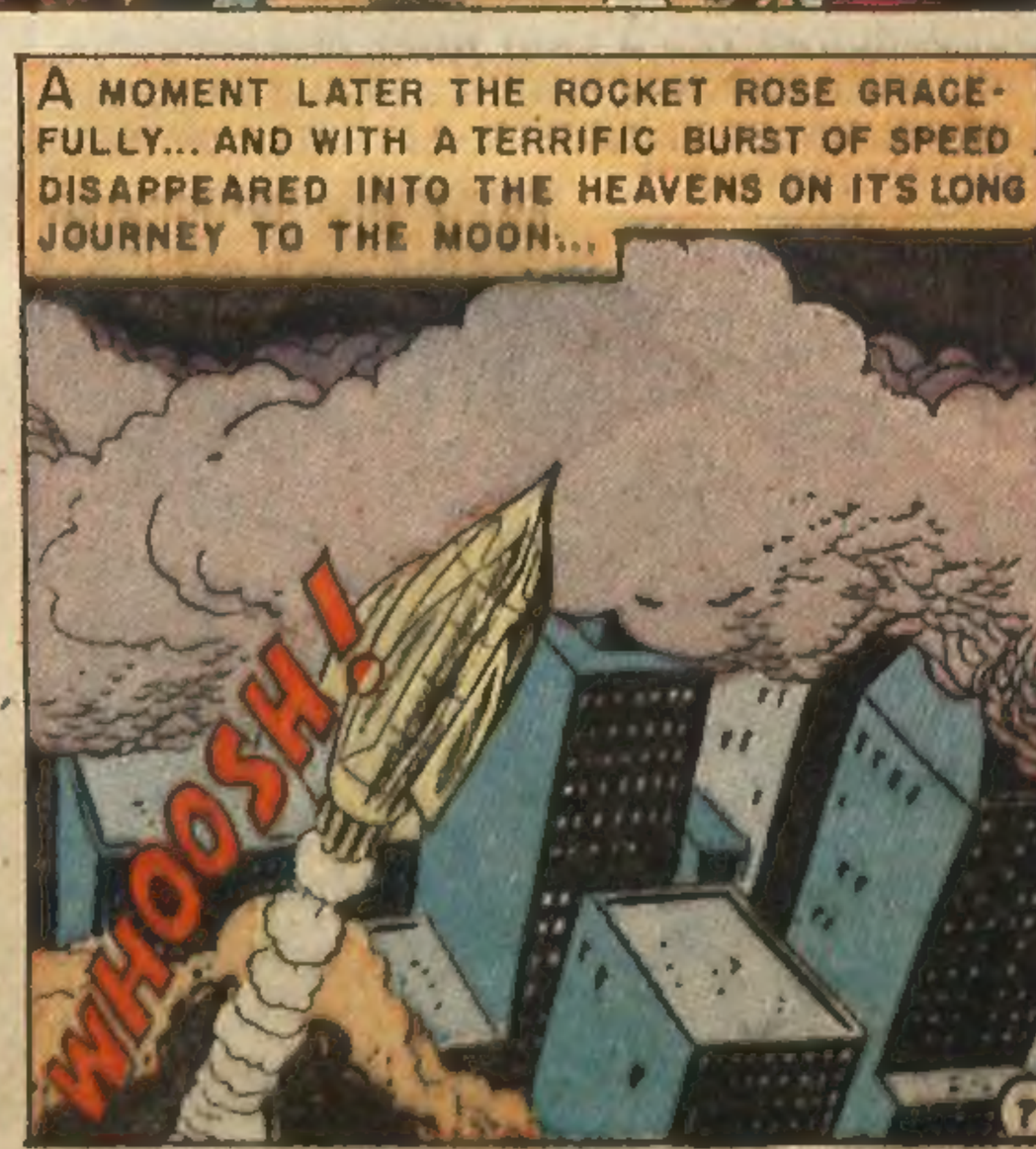
THE CHINESE WORSHIP THEIR ANCESTORS, AND IF THEY BELIEVE P'AN-KU TO BE THEIR FIRST EARTHLY ANCESTOR, THEY'D SNAP AT THE CHANCE OF AN ALLIANCE.
YES, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

FOR THE NEXT MONTH TED, WORKING FEVERISHLY, PERFECTS A SECRET MACHINE...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US, TED?
TO SEE THE THING THAT I HOPE WILL BRING PEACE TO THE EARTH!
AND WHAT IS THAT?


THIS. A SHIP TO CARRY ME TO THE MOON.
AND TO THINK I NEVER KNEW A THING ABOUT IT.

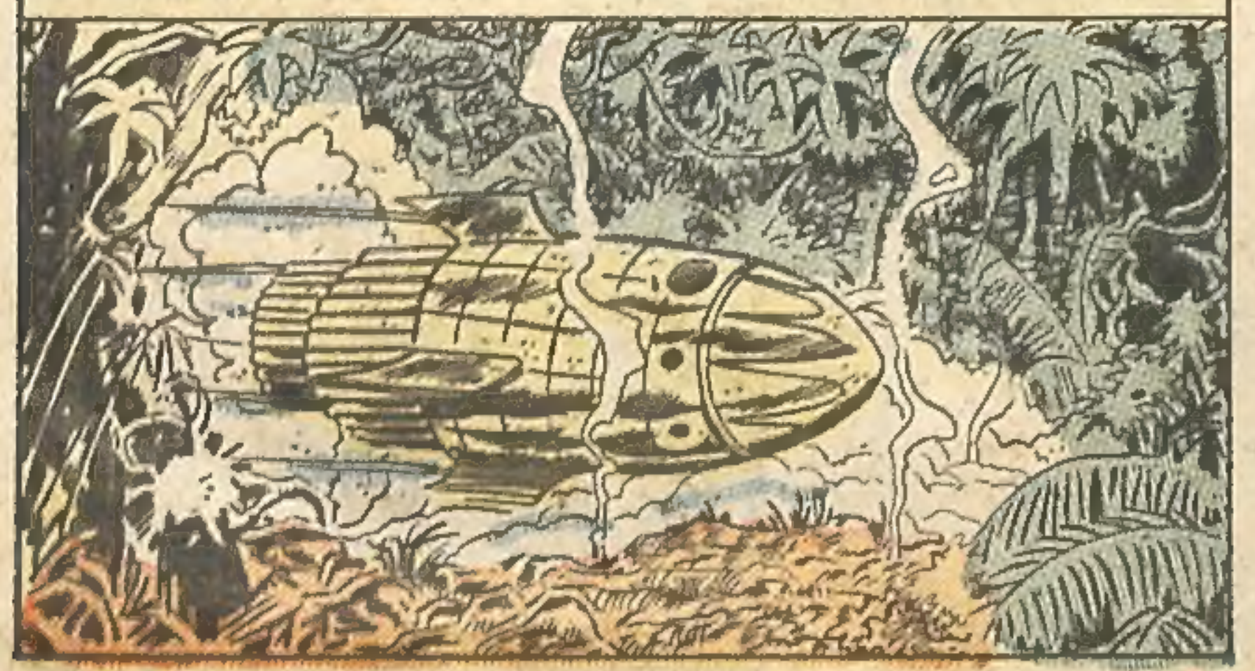
A LITTLE LATER...
BUT HOW DOES IT RUN?
ATOMOTOR. IT WILL FLY IN THE SAME WAY MY FIRST PROJECTILE DID. I'M LEAVING TONIGHT.
WHAT! YOU EXPECT TO GO TO THE MOON ALONE AND UNARMED?

NOT EXACTLY. MY TWO DEGRAVITATORS WILL DISINTEGRATE ANYTHING THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH...
MAY HEAVEN PROTECT YOU. GOODBY TED.
GOODBY, MY BOY, AND GODSPEED.


A MOMENT LATER THE ROCKET ROSE GRACEFULLY... AND WITH A TERRIFIC BURST OF SPEED DISAPPEARED INTO THE HEAVENS ON ITS LONG JOURNEY TO THE MOON...
WHOOSH!

CHAPTER 2

TRAVELING AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED, THE ROCKET REACHES THE MOON IN TWENTY THREE HOURS AND LANDS IN THE GIGANTIC CRATER, HIPPARCHUS...



A MOMENT LATER TED ALIGHTS TO BEGIN HIS SEARCH FOR P'AN-KU, THE BELLIGERENT RULER OF THE LUNITES...

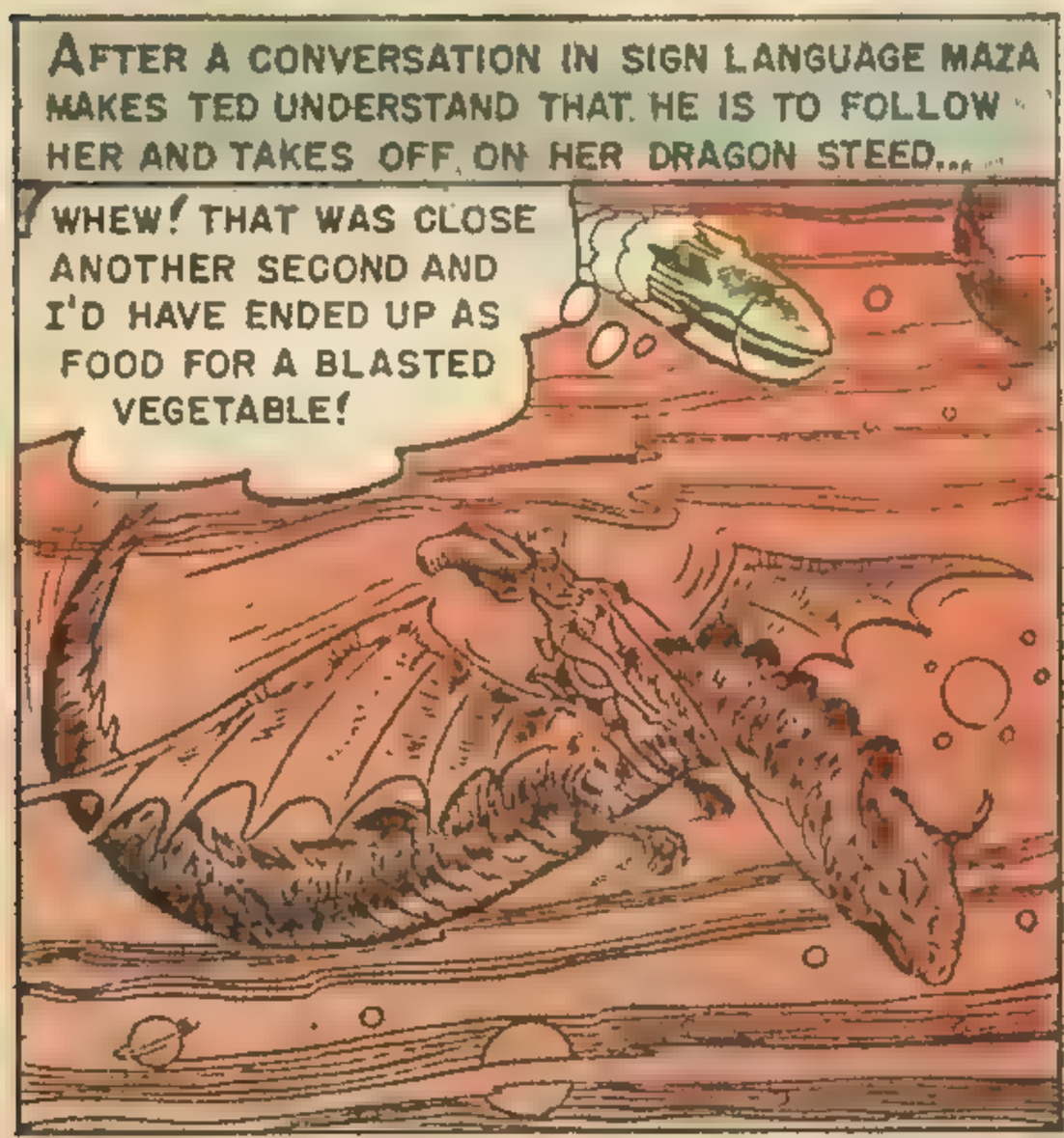
SUDDENLY, AS TED'S LAST HOPE DISAPPEARS, A BRILLIANT RED RAY FLASHES IN THE DARKNESS AND CRUMBLES THE STEEL-LIKE MAW OF THE MAN-EATING PLANT...

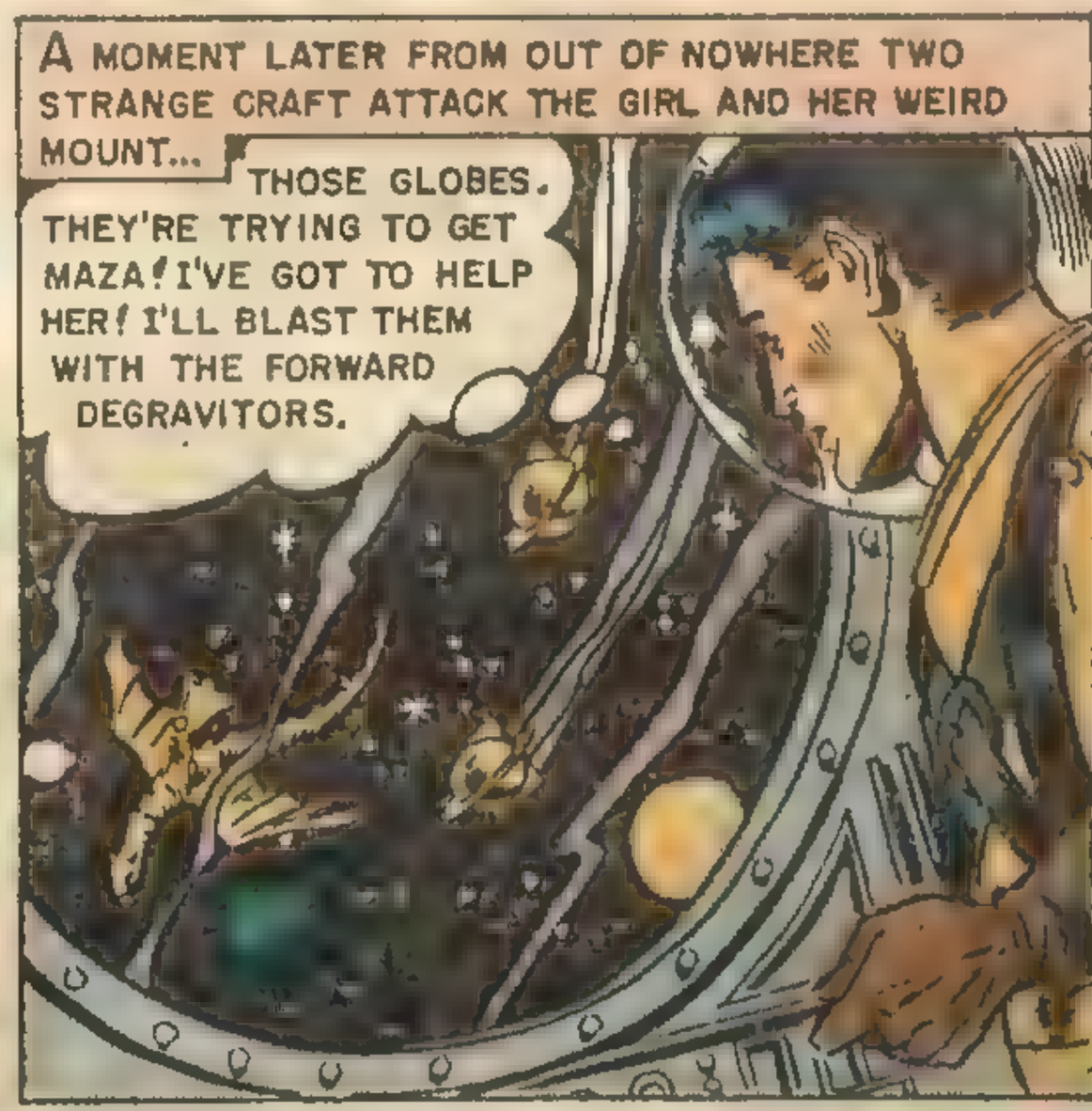
A MOMENT LATER HE SLIDES DOWN THE CHARRED REMAINS OF THE OCTOPUS PLANT TO FACE....

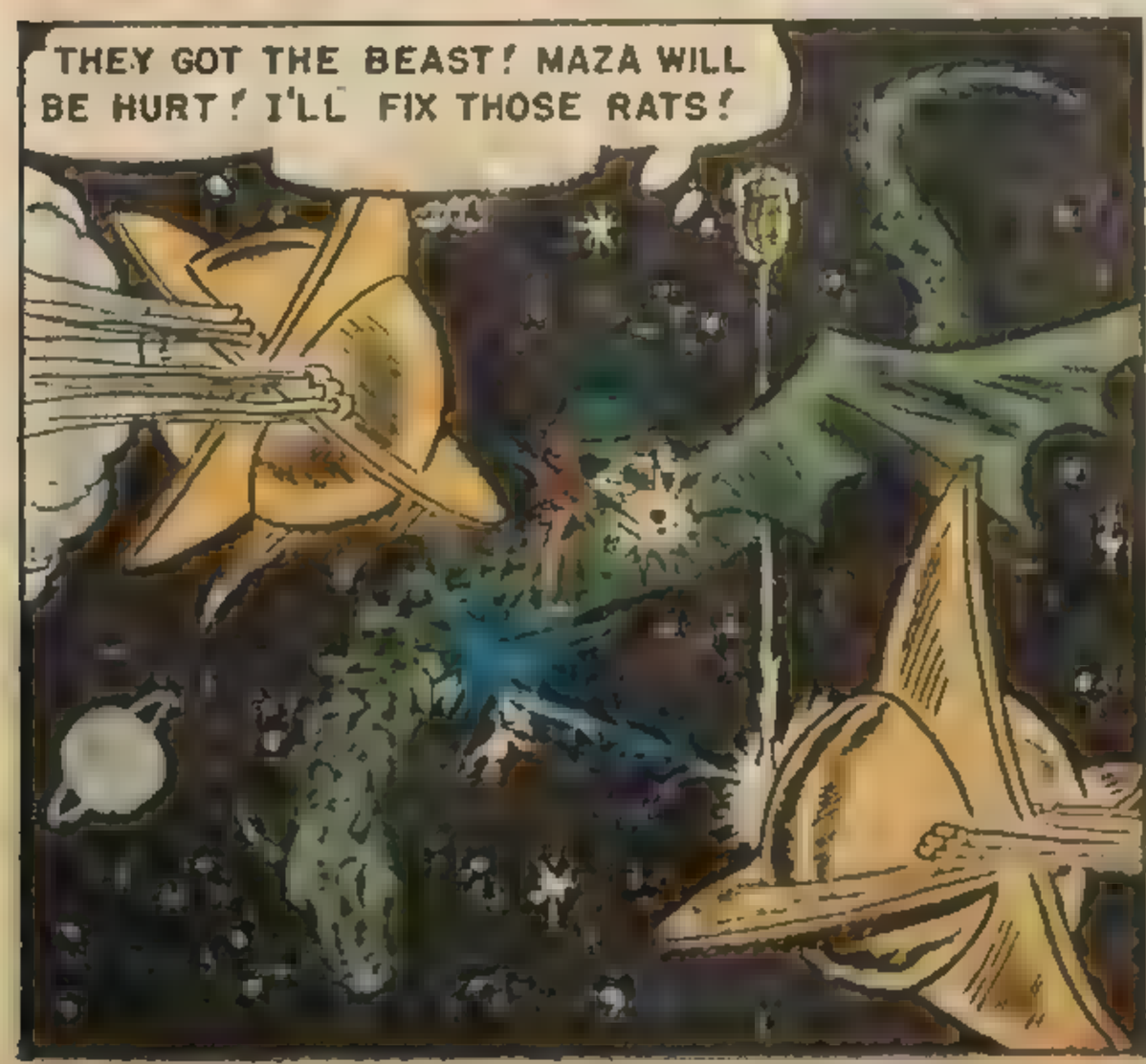
IF I COULD ONLY TALK TO HER... LOOK OUT!
AHN?

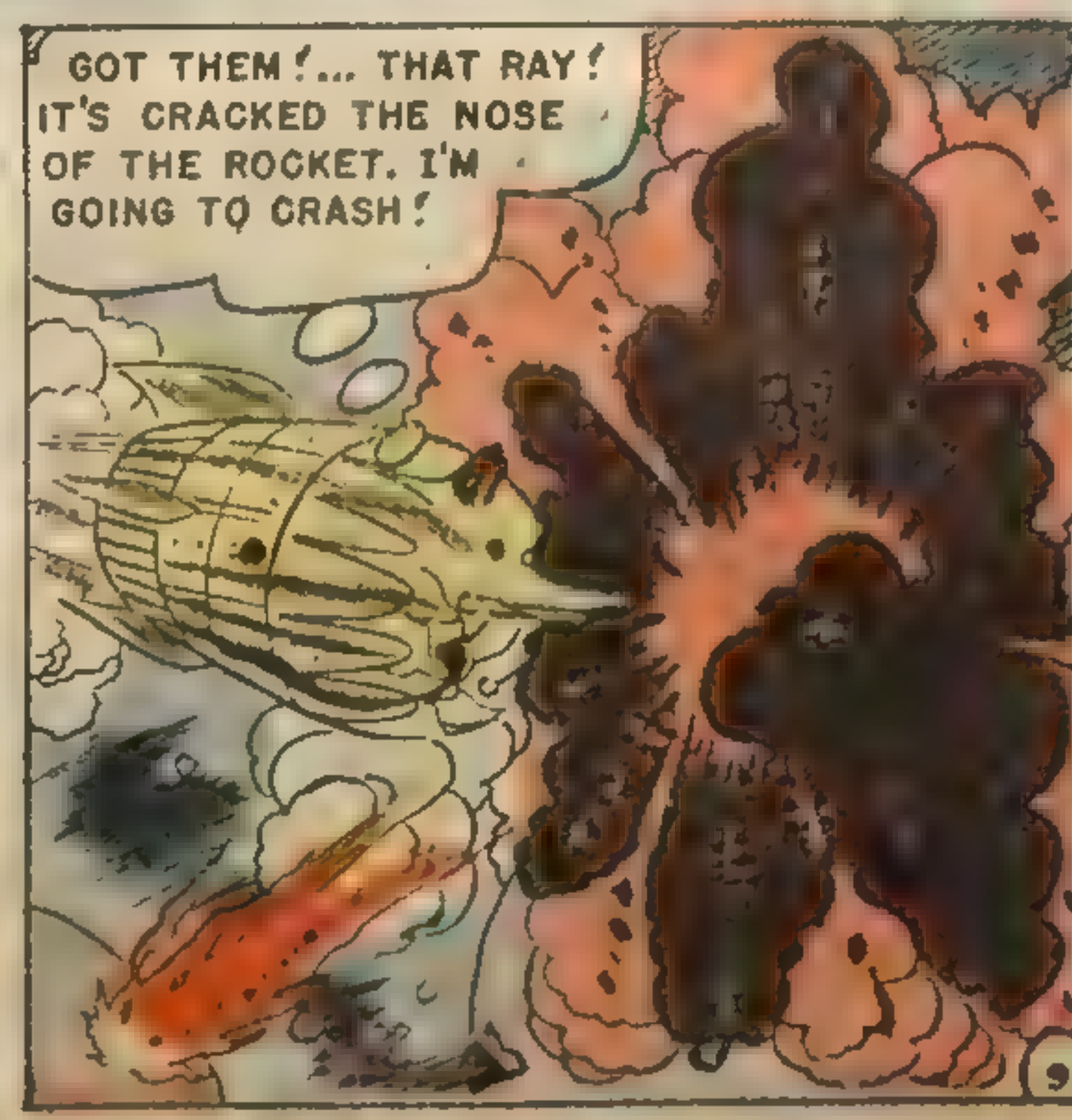
NA! O! NA!
I'LL BE JIGGERED! SHE'S STOPPED ME FROM SHOOTING!

NAK-KAR... UMA NAK-KAR.
I GET IT. IT'S SOME KIND OF A STEED.


AFTER A CONVERSATION IN SIGN LANGUAGE MAZA MAKES TED UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS TO FOLLOW HER AND TAKES OFF ON HER DRAGON STEED...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE ANOTHER SECOND AND I'D HAVE ENDED UP AS FOOD FOR A BLASTED VEGETABLE!


A MOMENT LATER FROM OUT OF NOWHERE TWO STRANGE CRAFT ATTACK THE GIRL AND HER WEIRD MOUNT...
THOSE GLOBES. THEY'RE TRYING TO GET MAZA! I'VE GOT TO HELP HER! I'LL BLAST THEM WITH THE FORWARD DEGRAVITORS.


THEY GOT THE BEAST! MAZA WILL BE HURT! I'LL FIX THOSE RATS!


GOT THEM!... THAT RAY! IT'S CRACKED THE NOSE OF THE ROCKET. I'M GOING TO CRASH!

OUT OF CONTROL, THE ROCKET HURTLES TO THE GROUND AND PLOWS INTO THE HEAVY FOLIAGE...

BRRRRR

CRASH

BUT FORTUNATELY TED IS MERELY SHAKEN UP...

I'VE GOT TO FIND MAZA...THE OTHER GLOBE LANDED. MAYBE THEY'VE GOT HER BY NOW...

I'LL NEVER FIND HER IN THIS DENSE FOLIAGE. SHE...SHE MAY BE BADLY HURT... WHAT'S THAT?...

HURRYING ONWARD TED COMES UPON A STRANGE SCENE...

IT'S MAZA! SHE...SHE'S FENCING WITH THAT RED RAY AGAINST THE DEVIL WITH THE GREEN ONE. I'LL PUT A STOP TO THAT!

THAT'S THE LAST TIME YOU'LL USE THAT!

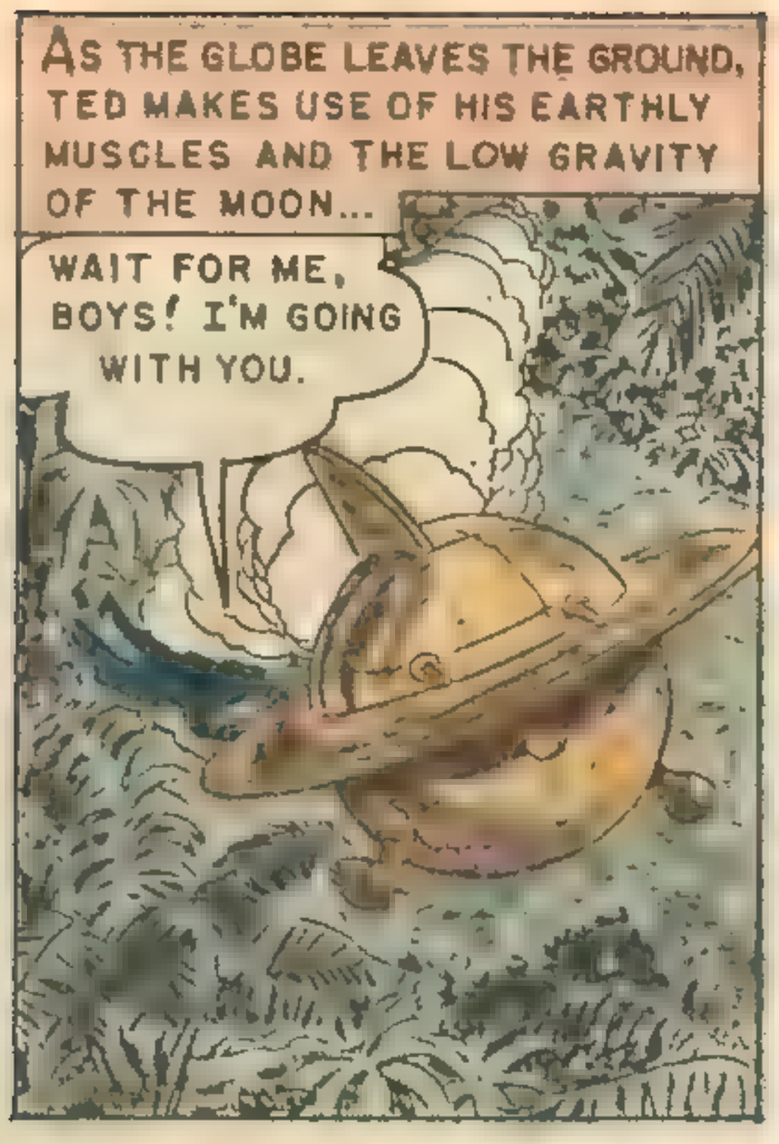
TED DUSTIN...

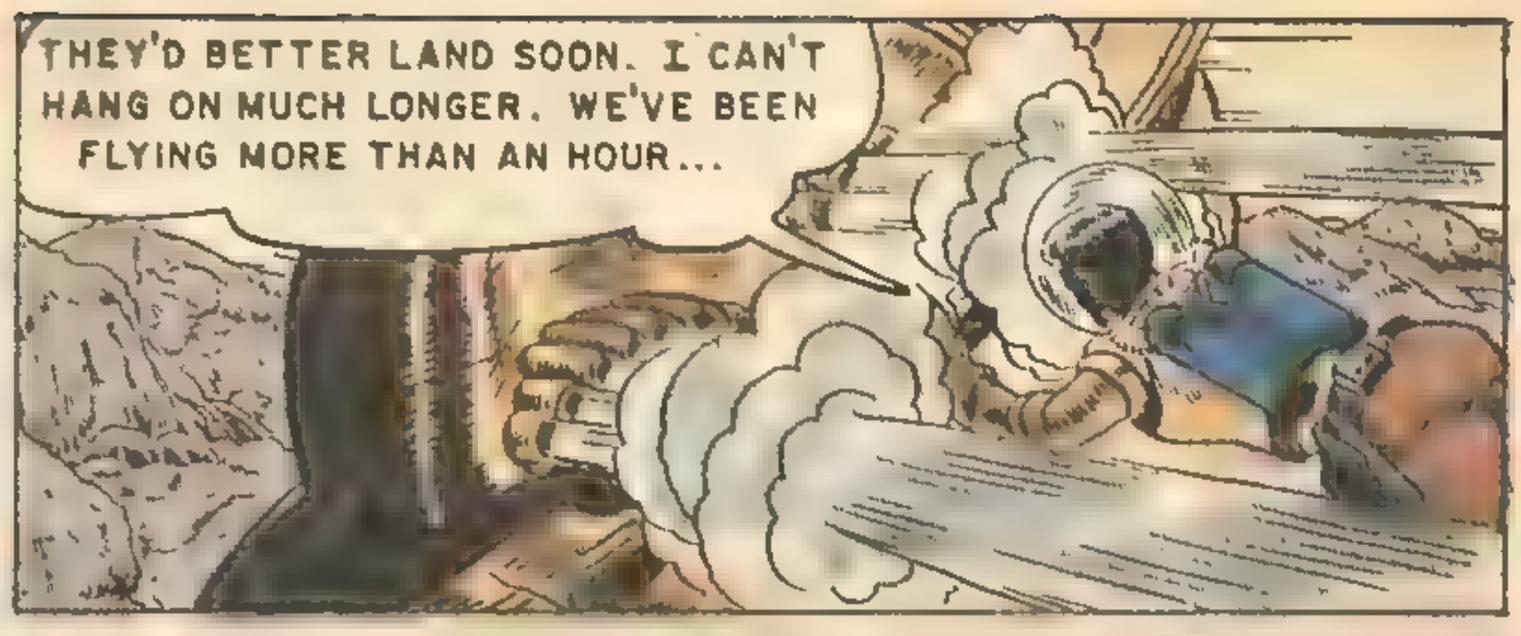
AS TED STARTS TOWARD THE GIRL, A NEW MENACE ARISES...

EEE! TED!!

ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE YELLOW DEVILS AND I CAN'T FIRE WITHOUT HITTING MAZA. I'VE GOT TO GET HIM SOME OTHER WAY.

THEY'RE TAKING HER ABOARD ONE OF THOSE GLOBES. I CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY. I'LL NEVER FIND HER AGAIN!


AS THE GLOBE LEAVES THE GROUND, TED MAKES USE OF HIS EARTHLY MUSCLES AND THE LOW GRAVITY OF THE MOON...
WAIT FOR ME, BOYS! I'M GOING WITH YOU.

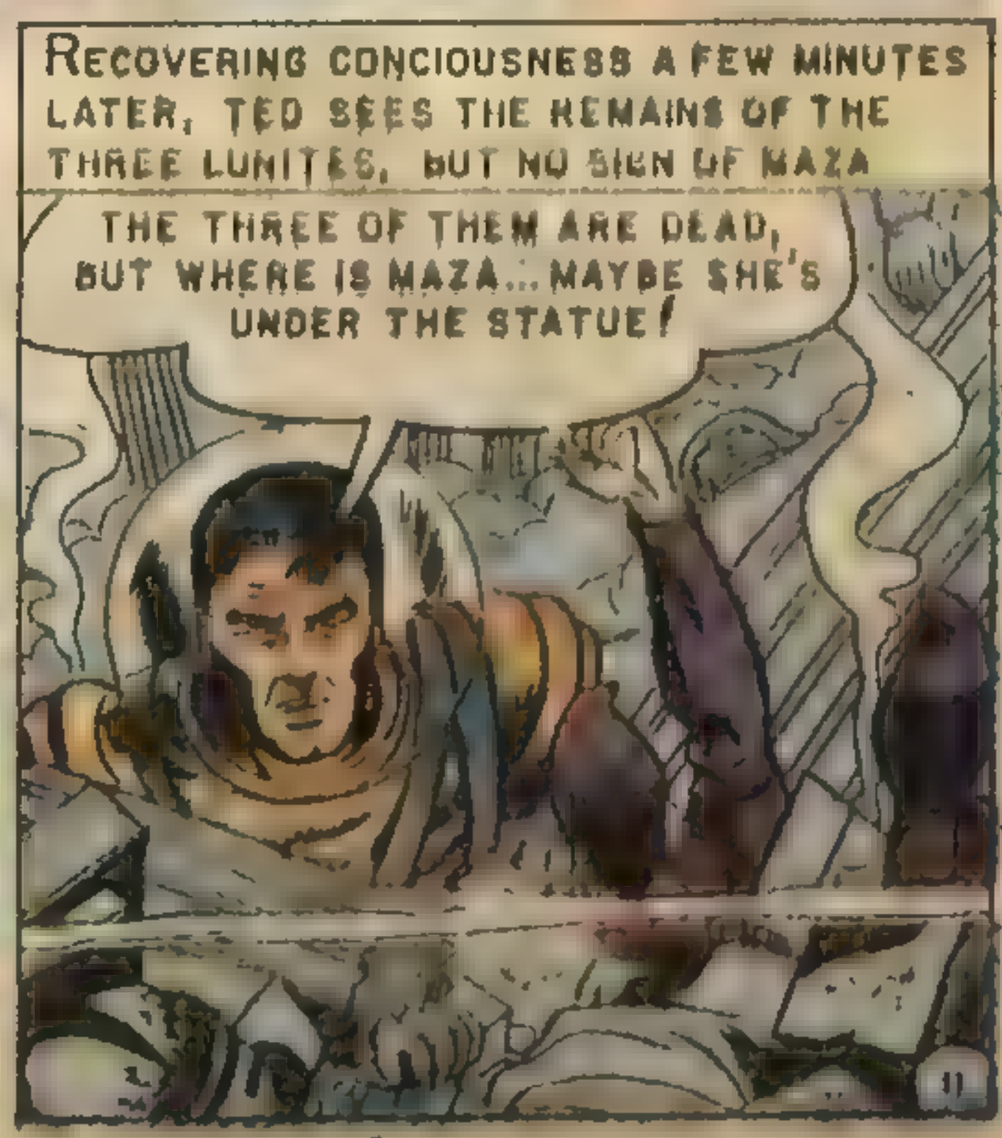

THEY'D BETTER LAND SOON. I CAN'T HANG ON MUCH LONGER. WE'VE BEEN FLYING MORE THAN AN HOUR...

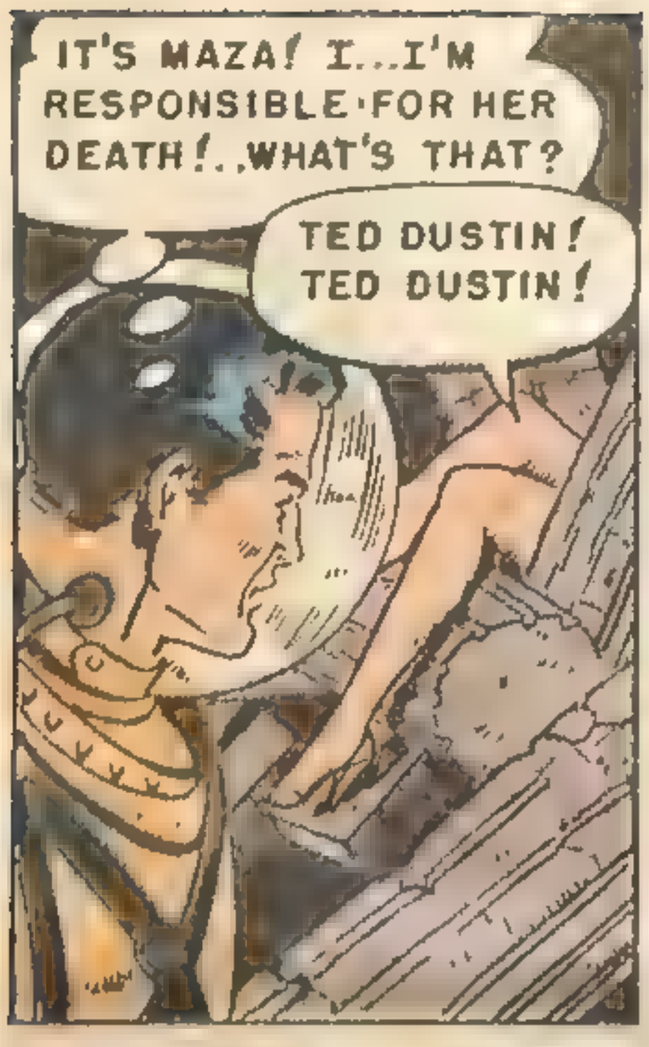
AS SUDDENLY AS THE SHIP TOOK OFF IT DIPS AND LANDS BEFORE AN EXPLOSION SCARRED BUILDING OF HUGE PROPORTIONS...
THIS MUST BE ONE OF THE BUILDINGS THAT WAS DAMAGED BY THE BOMB ON MY ROCKET. I OUGHT TO FIND P'AN-KU SOMEWHERE NEAR HERE.

A MOMENT LATER MAZA IS HUSTLED FROM THE CRAFT AND TAKEN INSIDE THE BUILDING .
THEY'RE TAKING MAZA INSIDE. I'D BETTER FOLLOW THEM.

HI! KO NA LA!
THEY'VE SEEN ME. I'VE GOT TO BLAST THEM!

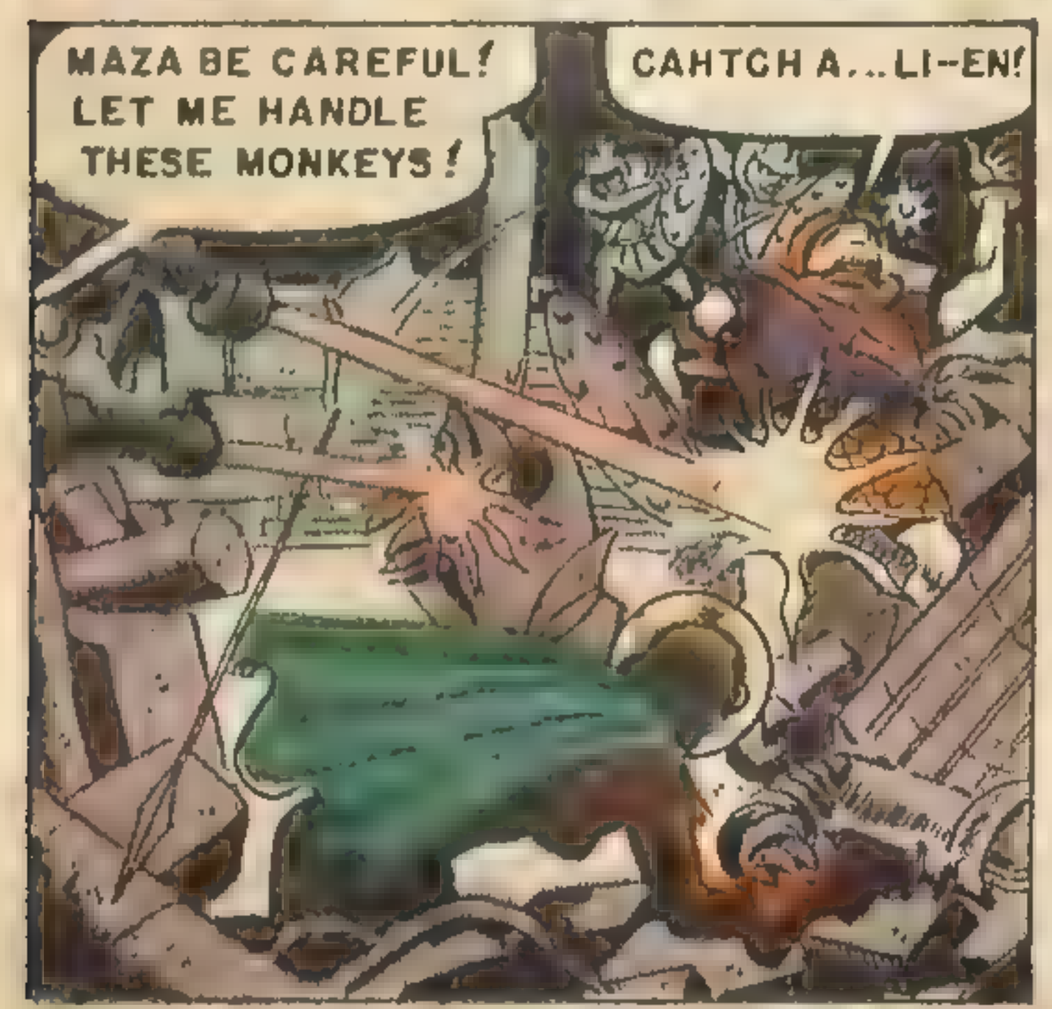
MAZA!.. AAAHH!
EEEYAH!

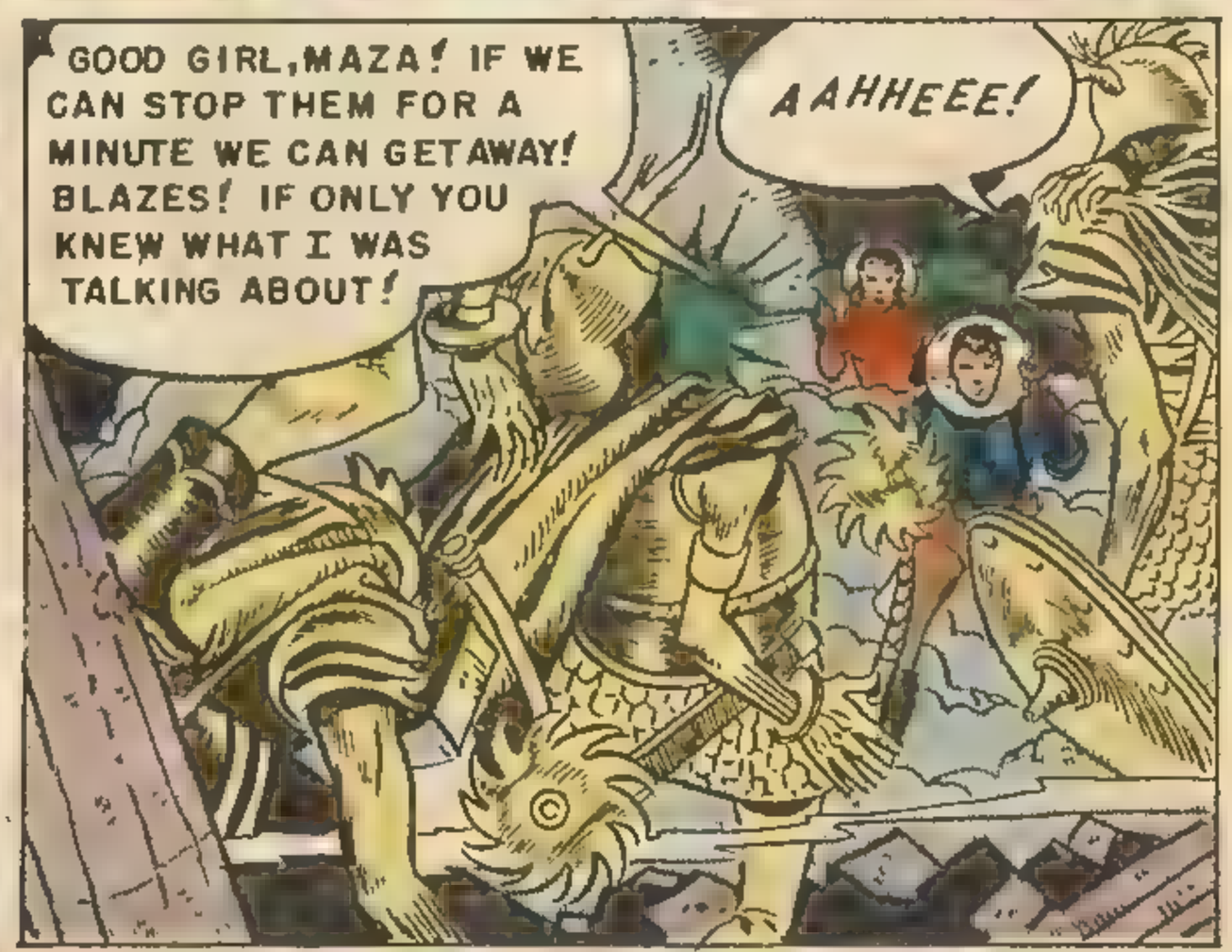

RECOVERING CONCIOUSNESS A FEW MINUTES LATER, TED SEES THE REMAINS OF THE THREE LUNITES, BUT NO SIGN OF MAZA
THE THREE OF THEM ARE DEAD, BUT WHERE IS MAZA...MAYBE SHE'S UNDER THE STATUE!


IT'S MAZA! I...I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH!..WHAT'S THAT?
TED DUSTIN! TED DUSTIN!

TED DUSTIN, YA CHO MA HI.
YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. HOLD ON, I'LL HAVE THAT STONE MOVED IN A JIFFY!

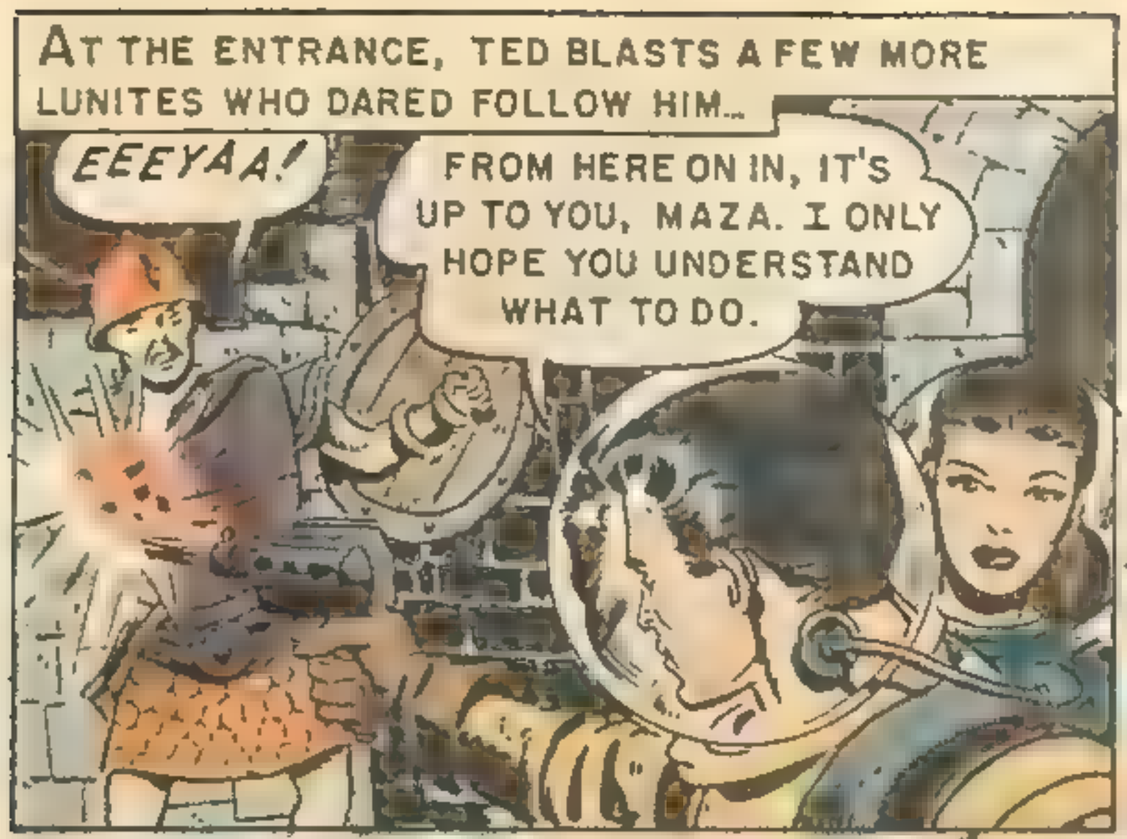
ONCE AGAIN HIS EARTHLY STRENGTH, GIGANTIC ON THE MOON, COMES TO GOOD STEAD AS TED FREES THE GIRL, ONLY TO FACE NEW DANGER...
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT... OH! OH! WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW! BEHIND ME, QUICK.
ELA NA GRIINNI...

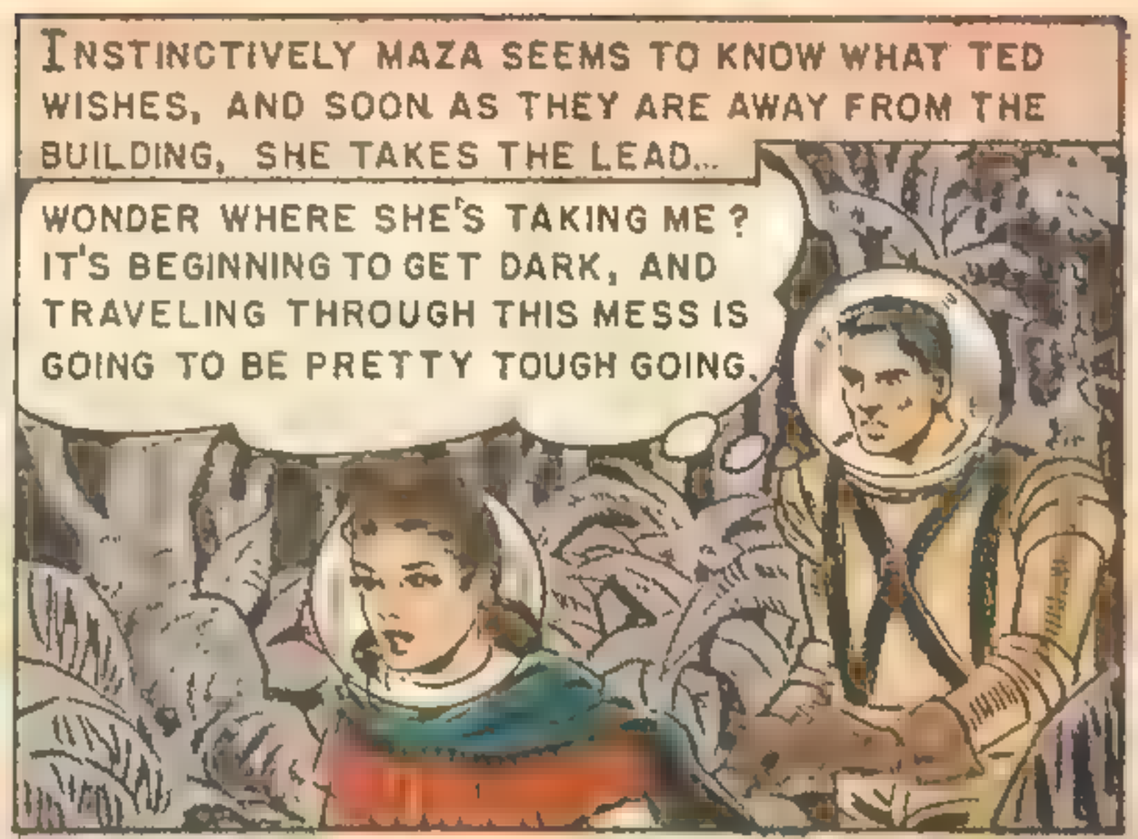

MAZA BE CAREFUL! LET ME HANDLE THESE MONKEYS!
CAHTCH A...LI-EN!

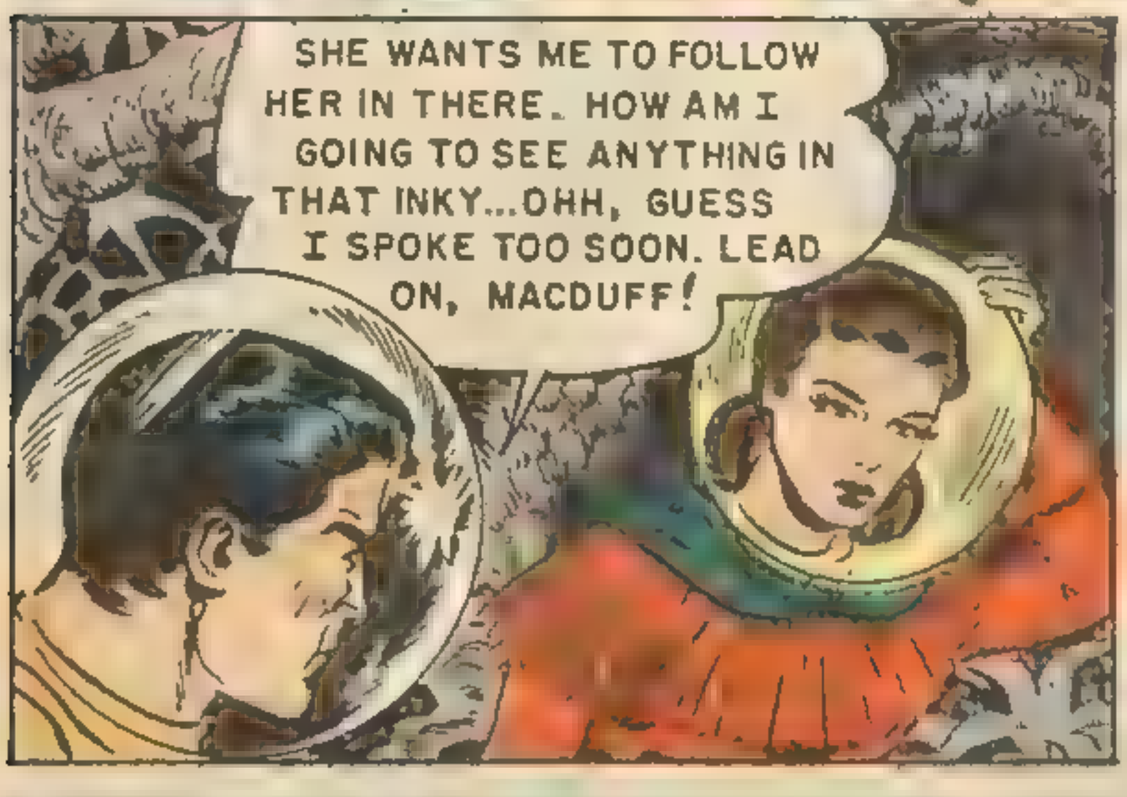

GOOD GIRL, MAZA! IF WE CAN STOP THEM FOR A MINUTE WE CAN GETAWAY! BLAZES! IF ONLY YOU KNEW WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT!
AAHHEEE!

WE CAN'T STAY HERE. IF WE DO WE'RE FINISHED. COME ON WE'LL MAKE A RUN FOR IT!

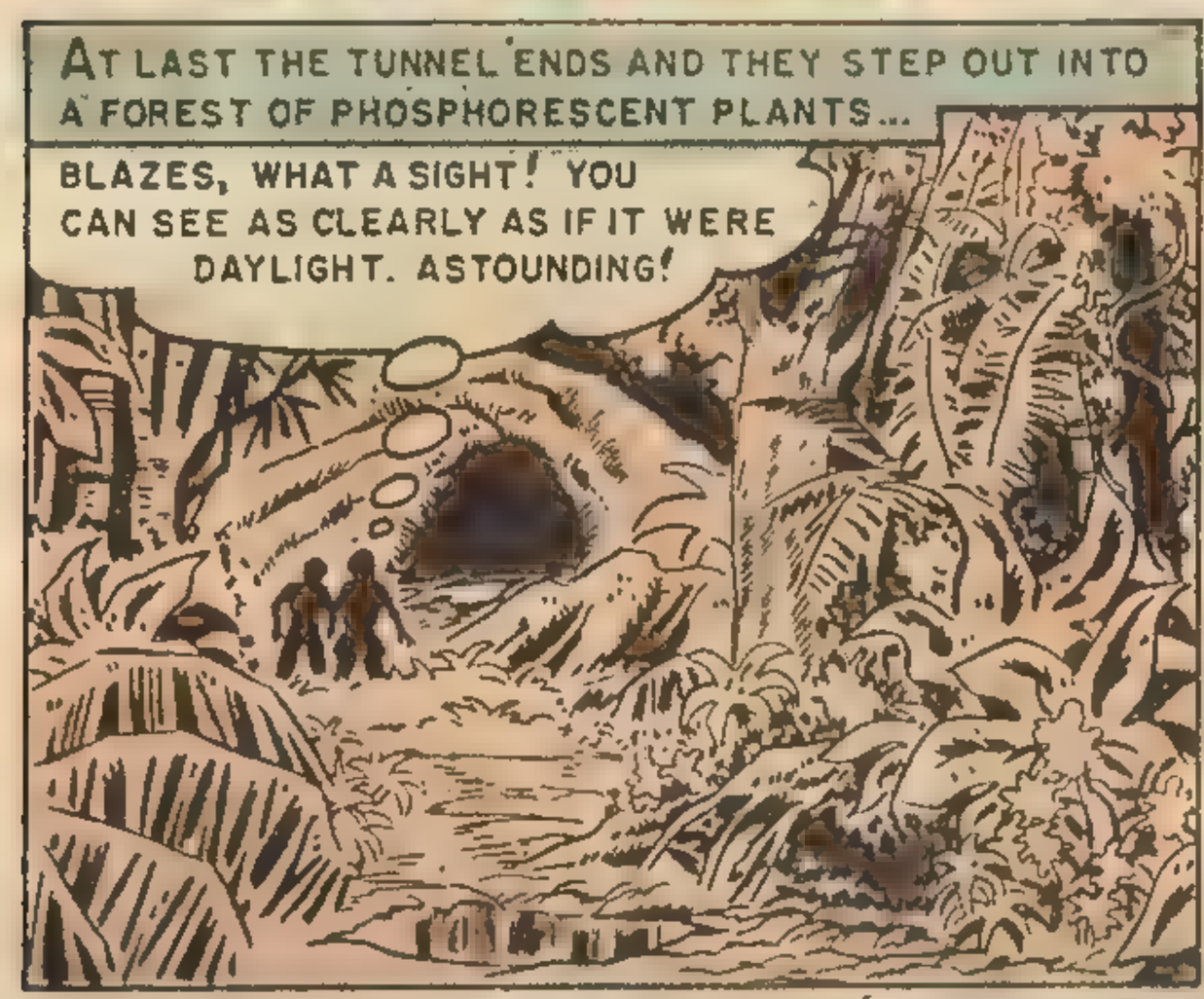
WITH MAZA IN HIS ARMS TED MAKES A MIGHTY LEAP TOWARD THE EXIT...
THANK GOODNESS FOR THE LOW GRAVITY. UP HERE I'M AS STRONG AS TWENTY OF THEM!
LI...PII INAR!

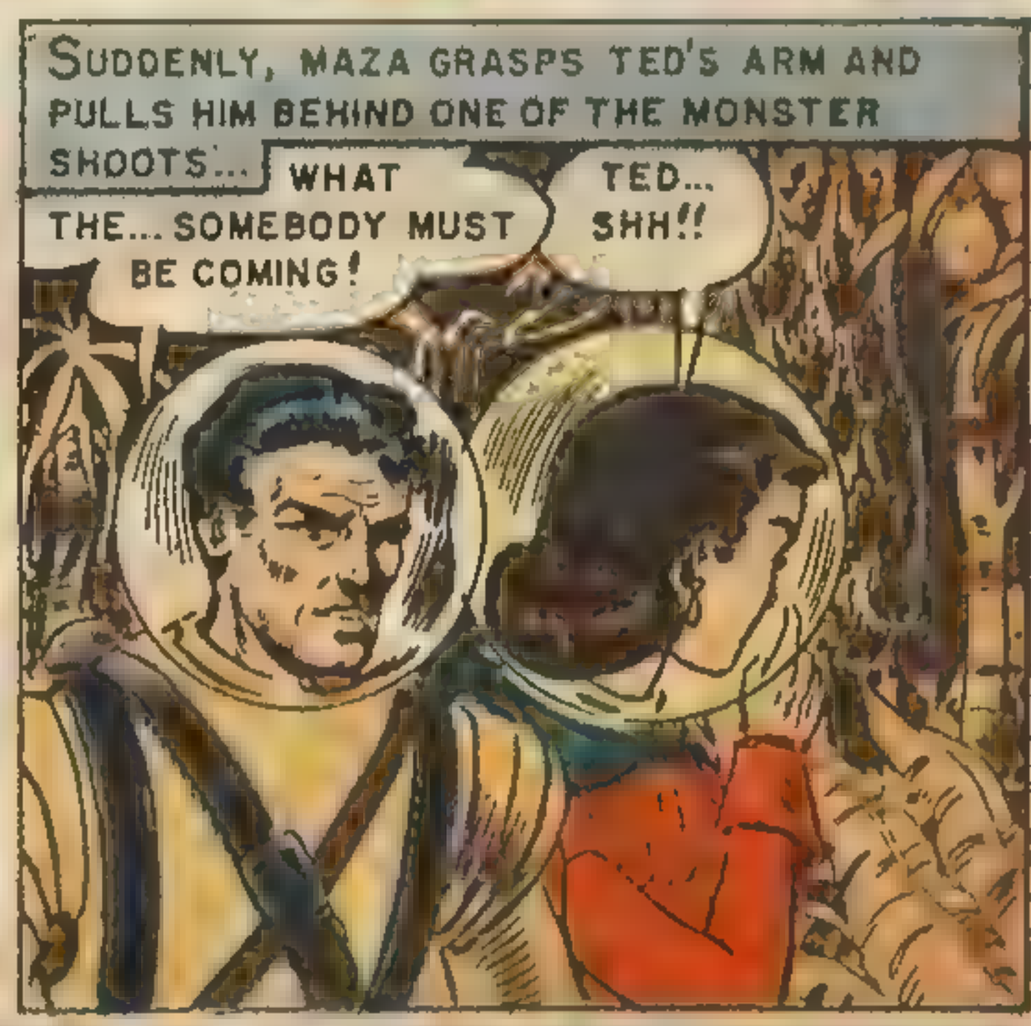

AT THE ENTRANCE, TED BLASTS A FEW MORE LUNITES WHO DARED FOLLOW HIM...
EEEYAA!
FROM HERE ON IN, IT'S UP TO YOU, MAZA. I ONLY HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT TO DO.


INSTINCTIVELY MAZA SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT TED WISHES, AND SOON AS THEY ARE AWAY FROM THE BUILDING, SHE TAKES THE LEAD...
WONDER WHERE SHE'S TAKING ME? IT'S BEGINNING TO GET DARK, AND TRAVELING THROUGH THIS MESS IS GOING TO BE PRETTY TOUGH GOING.


SHE WANTS ME TO FOLLOW HER IN THERE. HOW AM I GOING TO SEE ANYTHING IN THAT INKY...OHH, GUESS I SPOKE TOO SOON. LEAD ON, MACDUFF!

WHEW! THIS PLACE MUST BE OLDER THAN TIME ITSELF. WONDER HOW LONG WE'RE GOING TO BE IN HERE, AND WHERE, WE'RE GOING.


AT LAST THE TUNNEL ENDS AND THEY STEP OUT INTO A FOREST OF PHOSPHORESCENT PLANTS...
BLAZES, WHAT A SIGHT! YOU CAN SEE AS CLEARLY AS IF IT WERE DAYLIGHT. ASTOUNDING!


SUDDENLY, MAZA GRASPS TED'S ARM AND PULLS HIM BEHIND ONE OF THE MONSTER SHOOTS...
WHAT THE... SOMEBODY MUST BE COMING!
TED... SHH!!

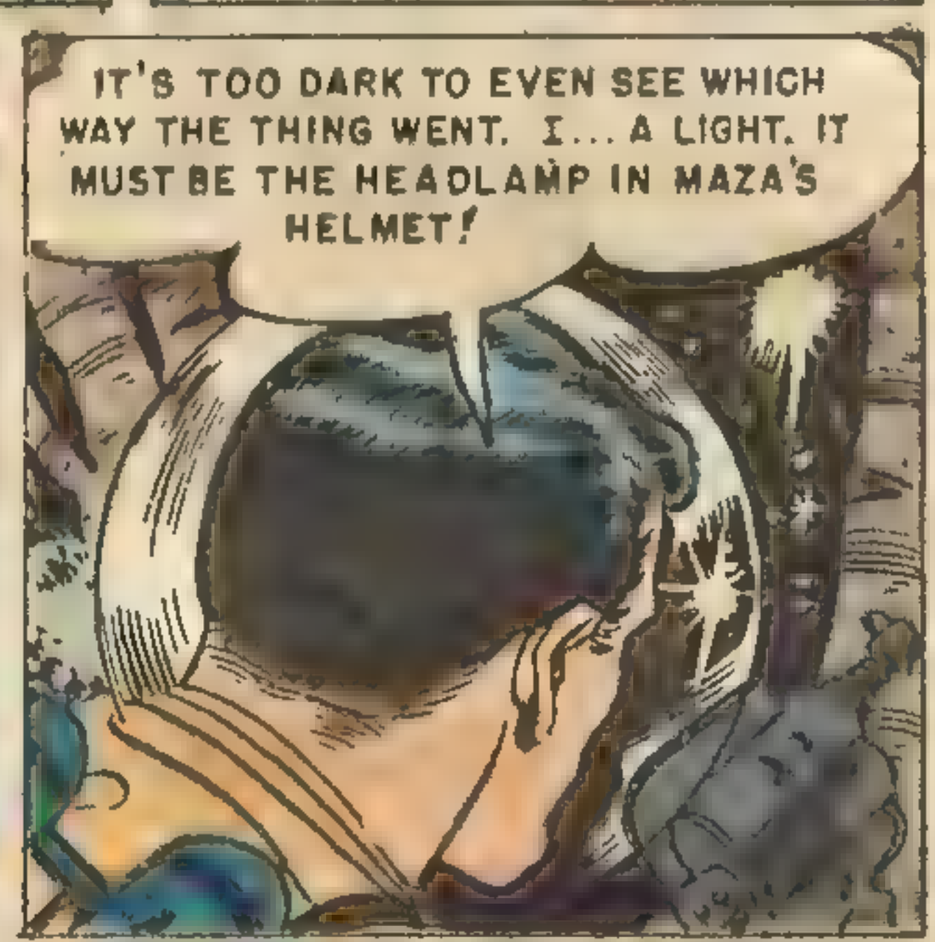
WOW! WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT? IT'S ENOUGH TO SCARE THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF A PERSON. REMINDS ME OF THE DRAGONS IN FAIRY STORIES.

THERE THEY GO. I'D HATE TO HAVE BEEN GRABBED BY ONE OF THOSE THINGS. I'D BARELY MAKE A BEDTIME SNACK FOR HIM!
TED...FA...LA

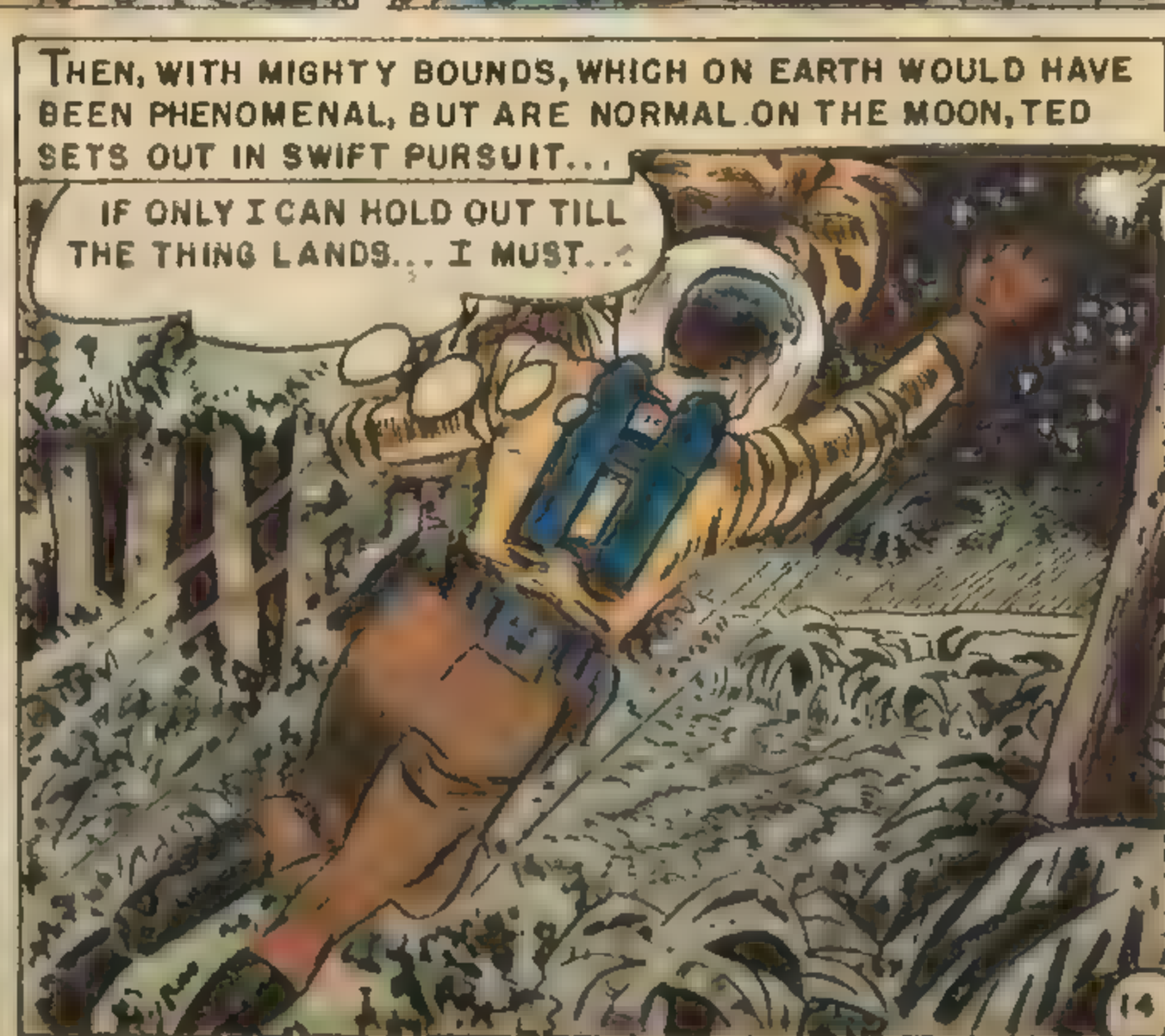
HOUR AFTER HOUR THE TWO BEAT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DENSE FOLIAGE. THEN A FEARFUL THING HAPPENS...
HOW MUCH LONGER DOES THIS... UNHH!
EEE!

TED! EEEEE!

EEEEEE! HANA!
I CAN'T SHOOT! IF I KILL THE THING MAZA WILL BE KILLED BY THE FALL! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

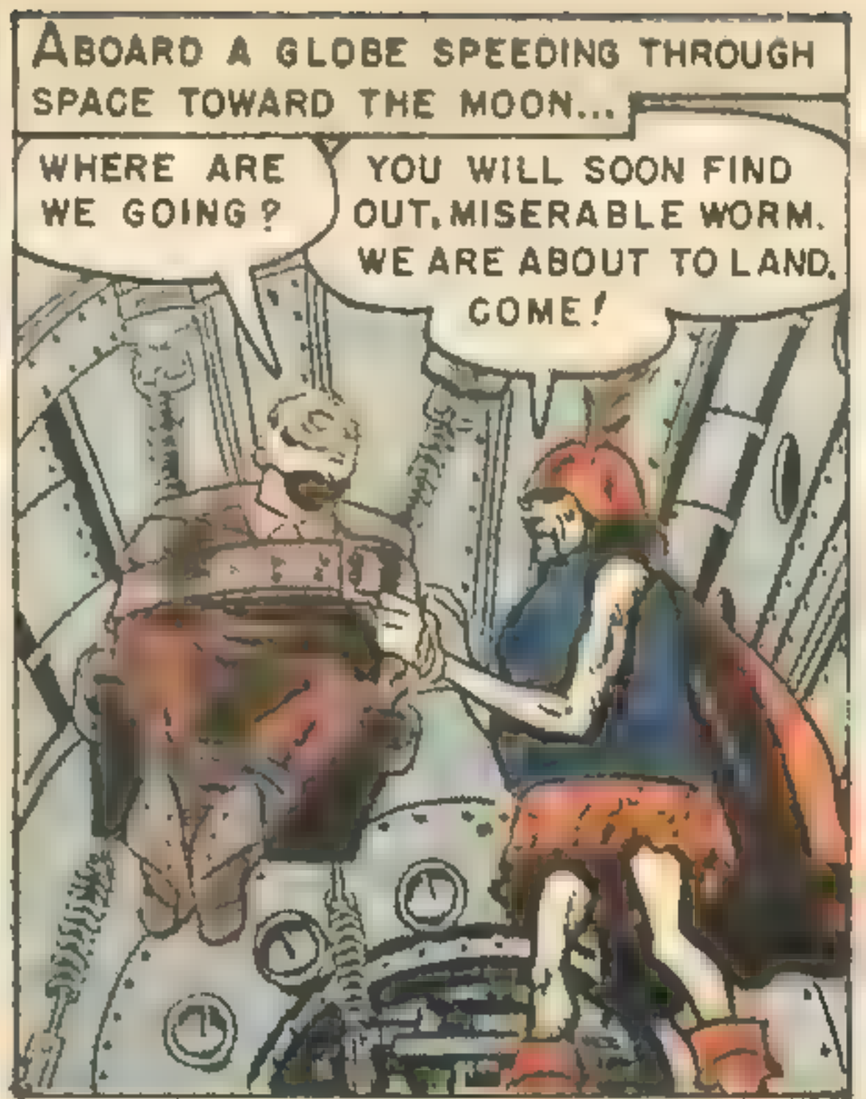

IT'S TOO DARK TO EVEN SEE WHICH WAY THE THING WENT. I... A LIGHT. IT MUST BE THE HEADLAMP IN MAZA'S HELMET!

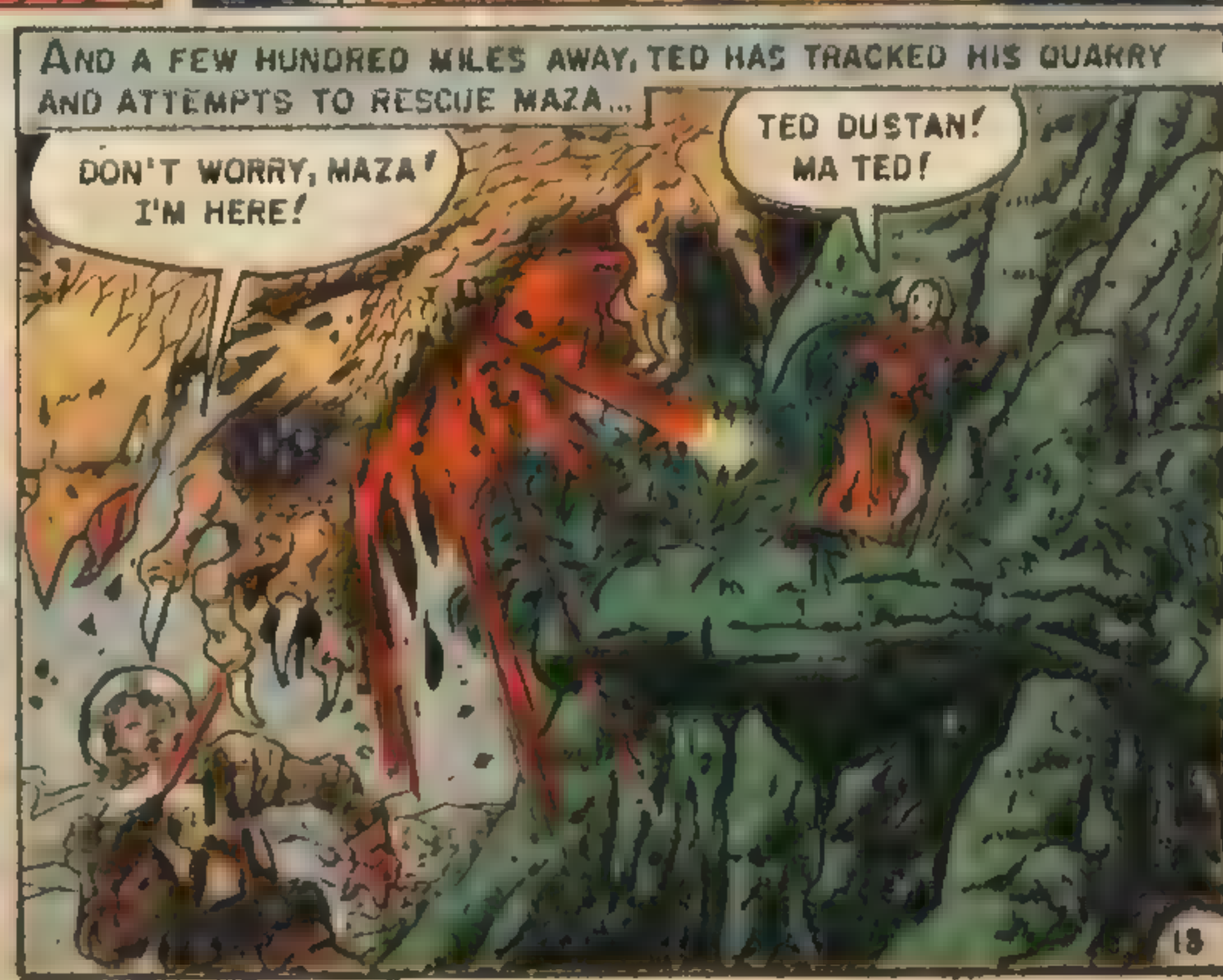
AS LONG AS I CAN SEE THAT LIGHT THERE'S A CHANCE...BUT I'LL NEVER KEEP IT IN SIGHT THIS WAY. MAYBE GRAVITY CAN HELP...

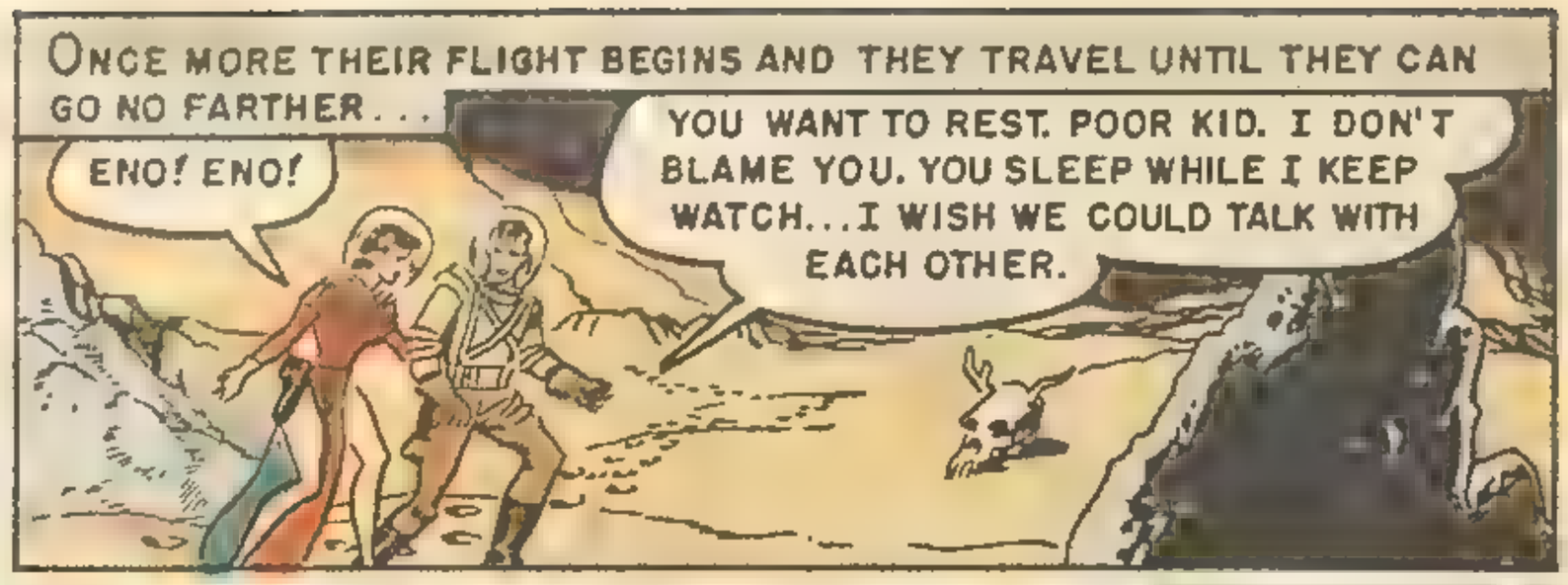

THEN, WITH MIGHTY BOUNDS, WHICH ON EARTH WOULD HAVE BEEN PHENOMENAL, BUT ARE NORMAL ON THE MOON, TED SETS OUT IN SWIFT PURSUIT...
IF ONLY I CAN HOLD OUT TILL THE THING LANDS... I MUST...

CHAPTER 3

MEANWHILE EARTH HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY GLOBES FILLED WITH THE MINIONS OF P'AN-KU AND PROFESSOR EDERSON CAPTURED..ONLY THE SWIFT MANUFACTURE OF TED'S SECRET WEAPONS HAS ENABLED ROGER AND THE AIR-FORCE TO FIGHT THE ATTACK OFF...

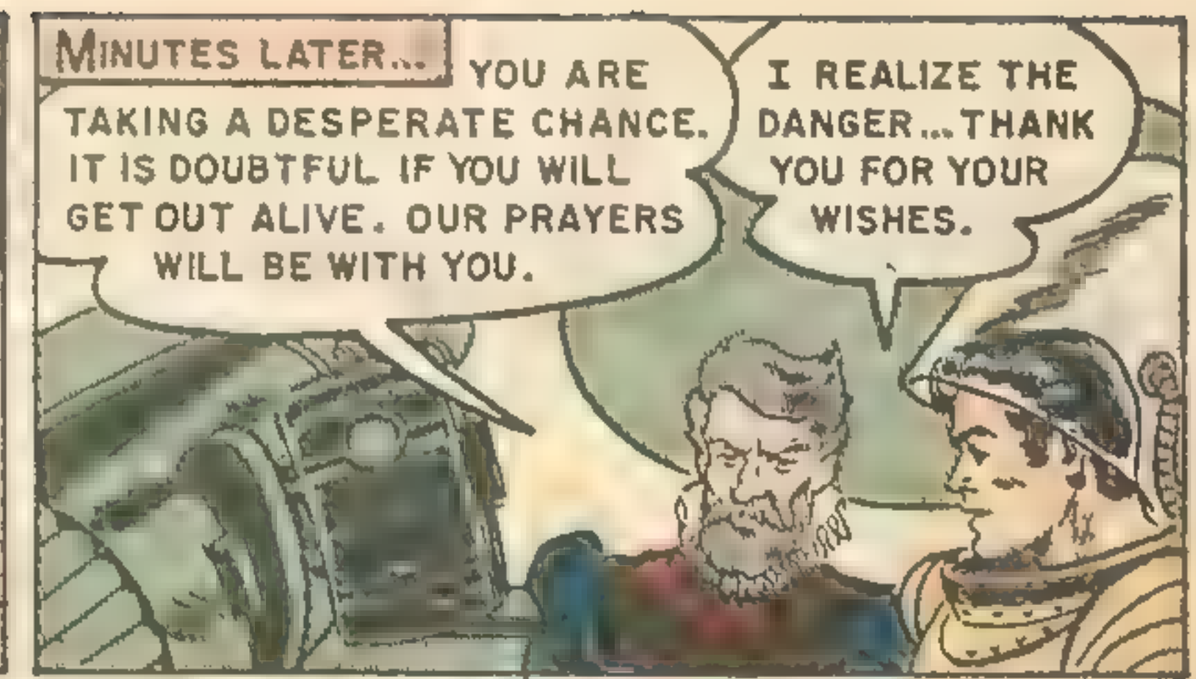






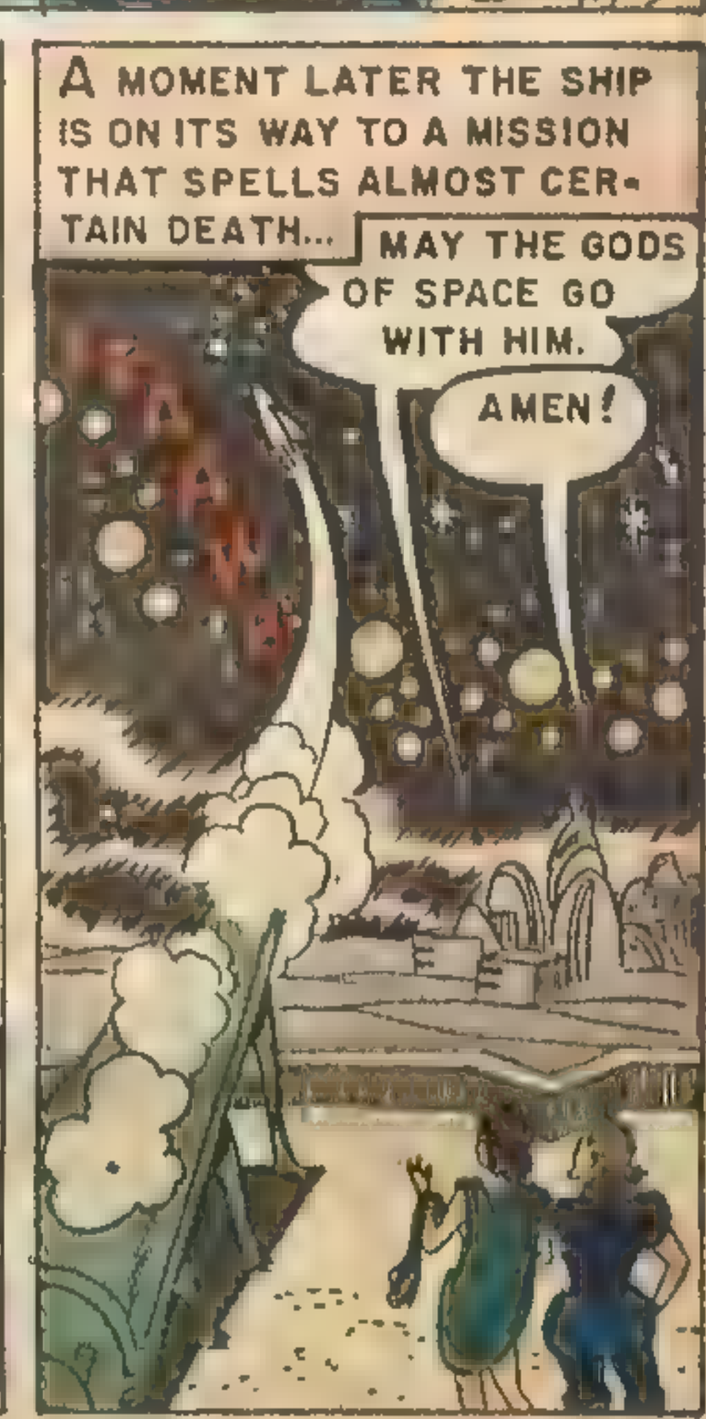
* NAK-KAR; THE FLYING DRAGONS.

NO. I WILL GO ALONE IN MY SPACE FLYER. TIME IS PRECIOUS AND I WILL REACH THE CARTER BEFORE YOUR MEN ARE EVEN STARTED.
VERY WELL, TED... VENERABLE KHAN, SEE THAT HE IS COMPLETELY OUTFITTED AT ONCE.
YES, PRINCESS.


MINUTES LATER...
YOU ARE TAKING A DESPERATE CHANCE. IT IS DOUBTFUL IF YOU WILL GET OUT ALIVE. OUR PRAYERS WILL BE WITH YOU.
I REALIZE THE DANGER...THANK YOU FOR YOUR WISHES.

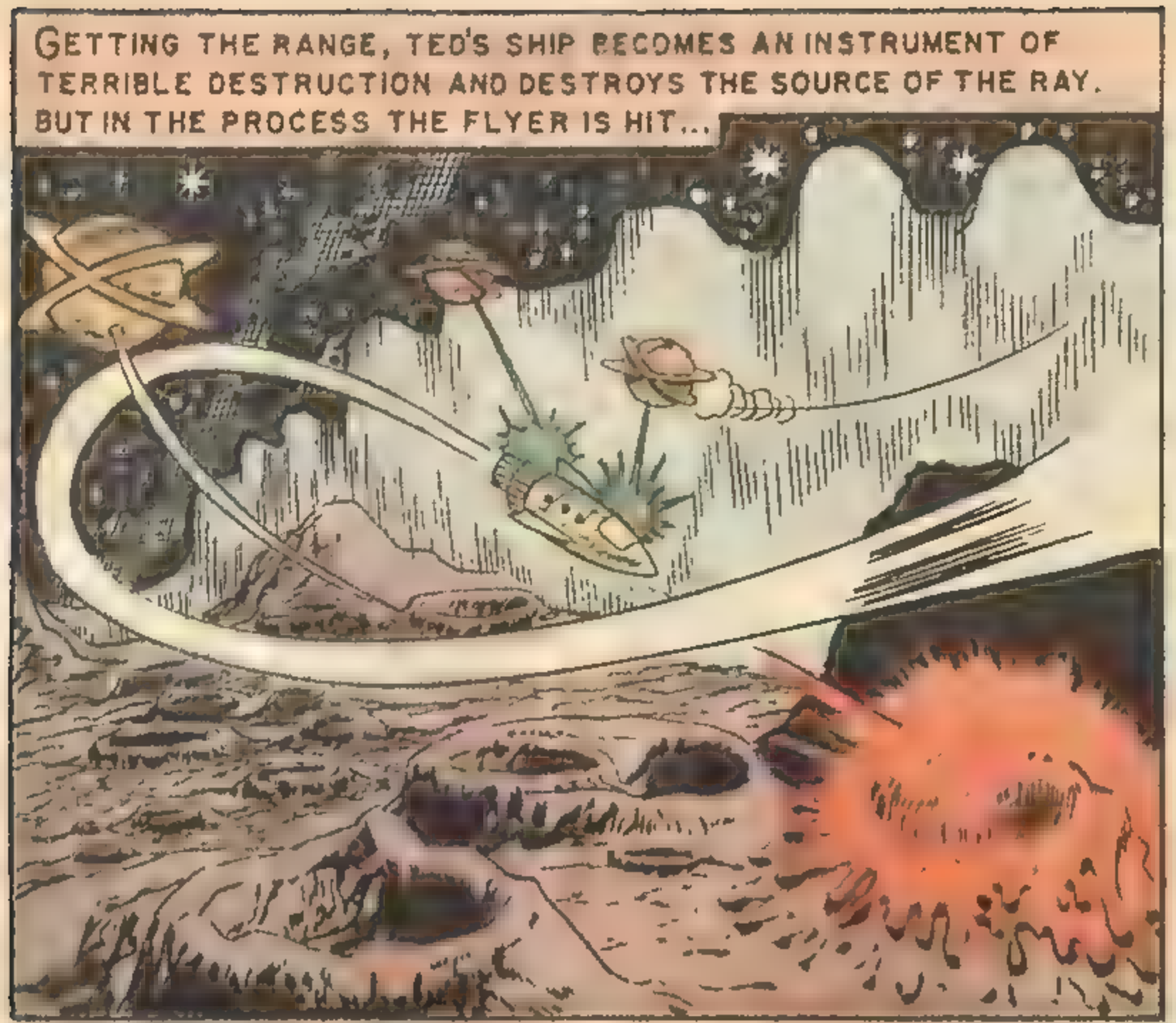
HOW DARE YOU LEAVE ME, TED DUSTIN, WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE...WH... WHY YOU MIGHT NEVER COME BACK.
I...I'M SORRY, MAZA, BUT I...I THOUGHT IT BEST THIS WAY.

I KNOW, BUT ...OH, TED!
MAZA...I...I'LL BE BACK! I PROMISE YOU.

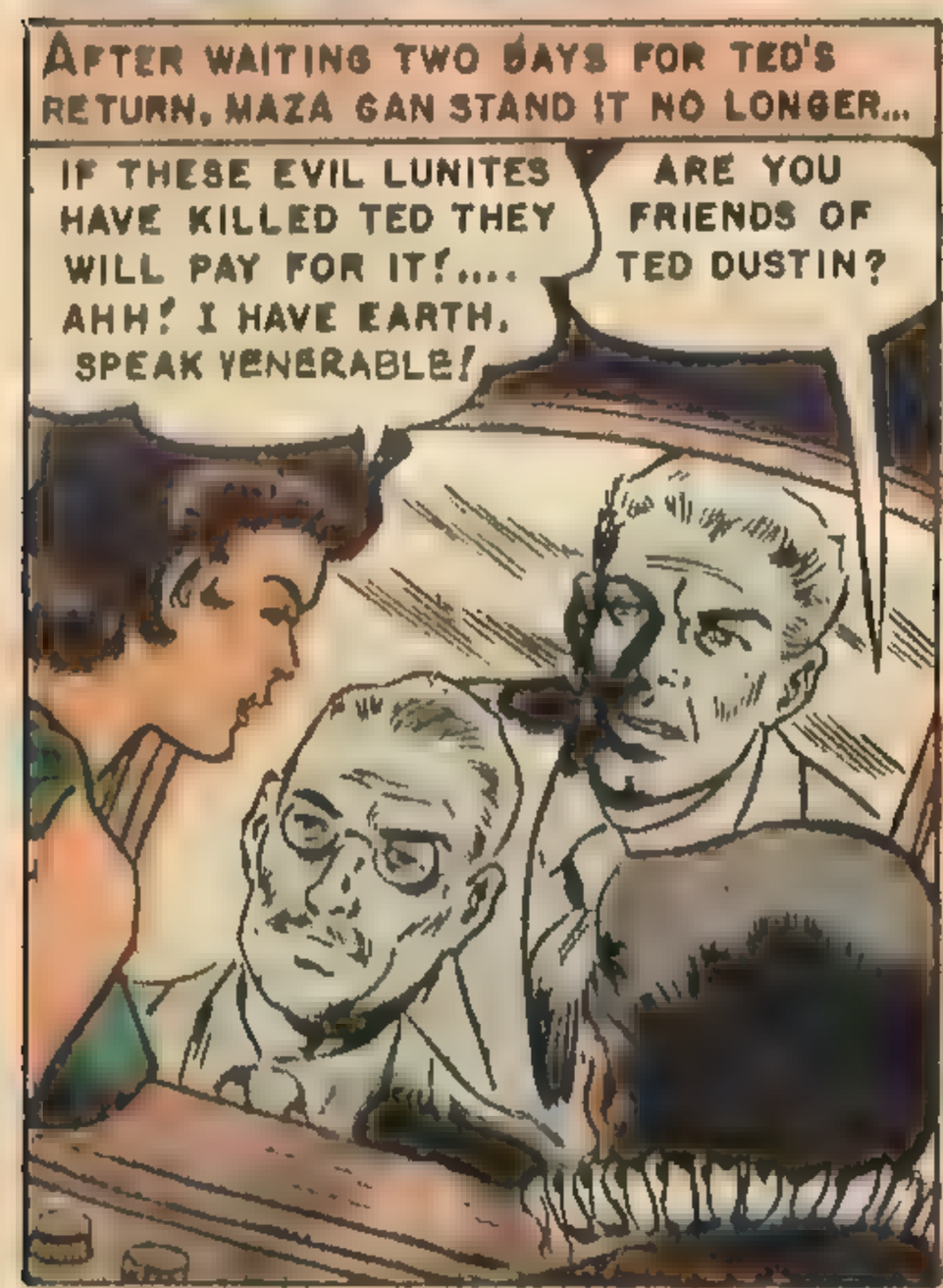

A MOMENT LATER THE SHIP IS ON ITS WAY TO A MISSION THAT SPELLS ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH...
MAY THE GODS OF SPACE GO WITH HIM.
AMEN!

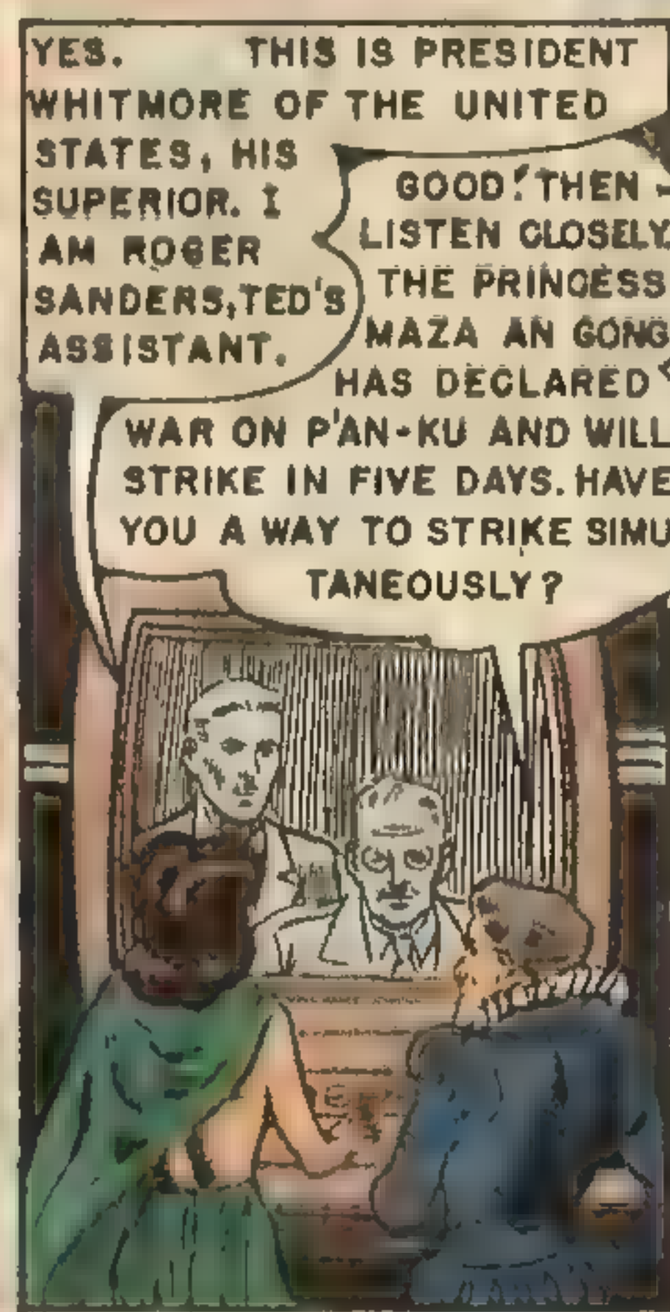
FLASHING TOWARD THE DEATH-DEALING CRATER, TED ARRIVES IN A FEW HOURS ONLY TO BE INTERCEPTED BY ENEMY PATROLS...
THEY'VE SPOTTED ME. I'VE GOT TO KNOCK OUT THAT RAY PROJECTOR BEFORE THEY GET ME!

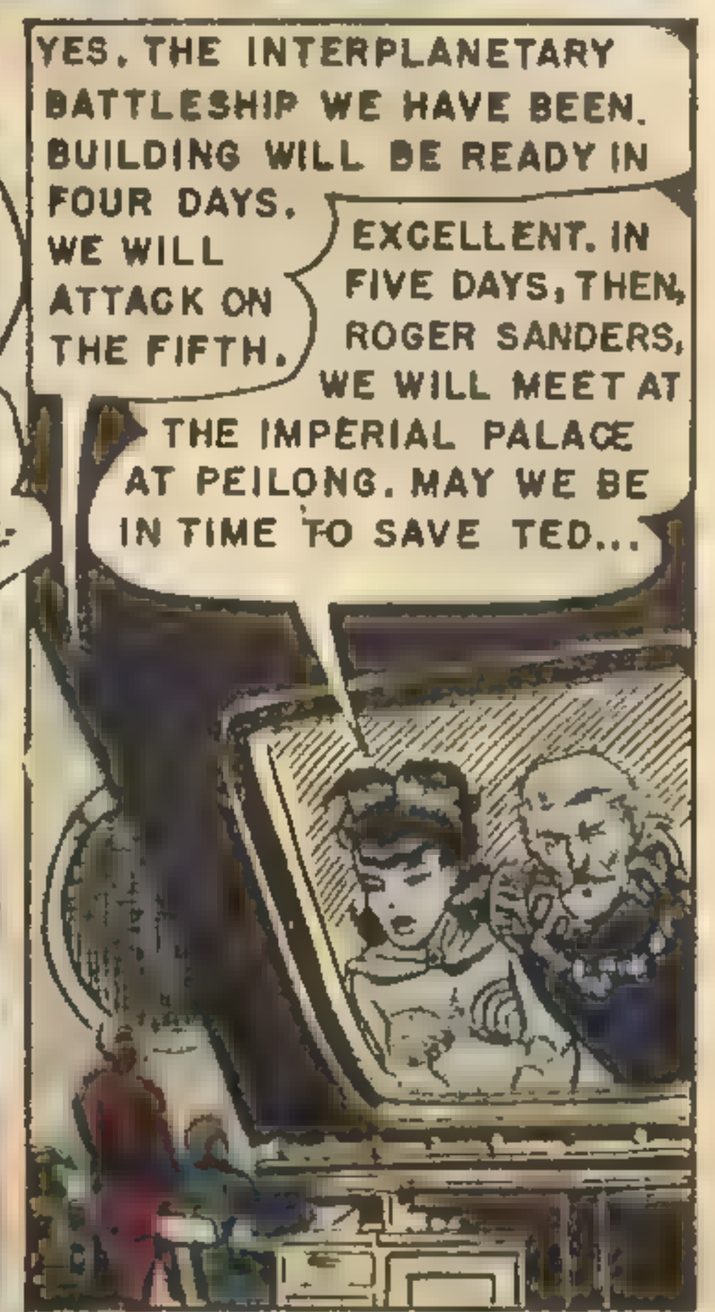
AIMING HIS SHIP DIRECTLY AT THE SOURCE OF THE RAY, TED TURNS ON BOTH DEGRAVITORS...
I MAY DIE DOING THIS, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY. I MUST SAVE THE EARTH AND STOP THAT RAY!
BOOM!

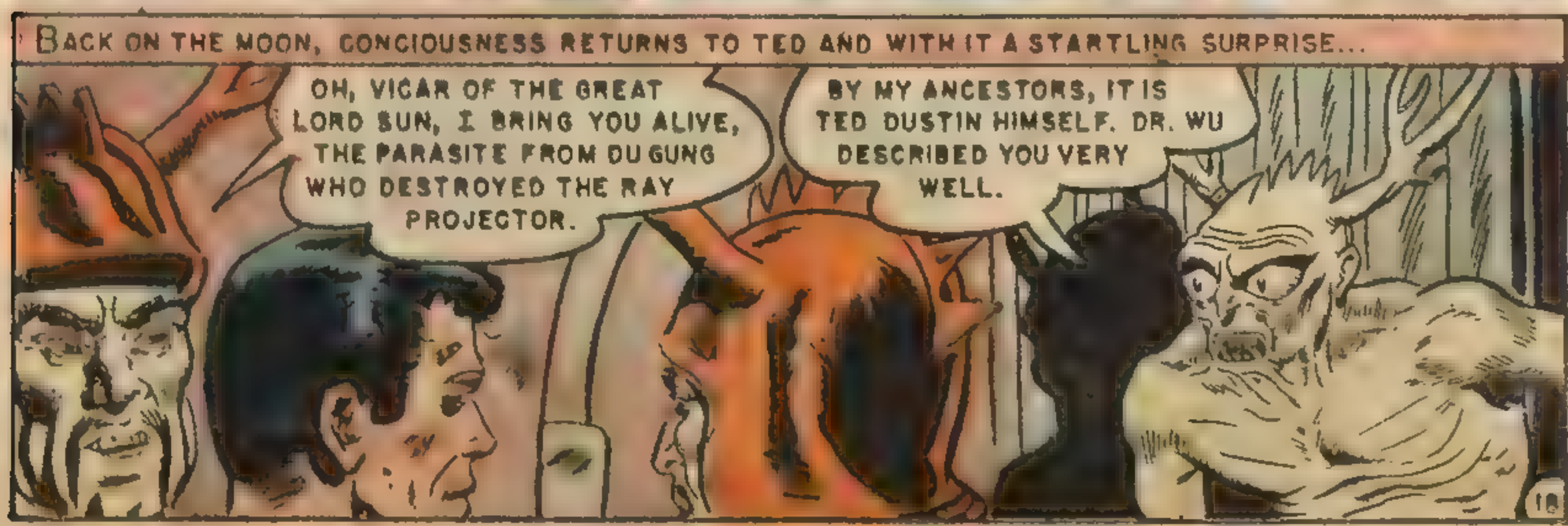

GETTING THE RANGE, TED'S SHIP BECOMES AN INSTRUMENT OF TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION AND DESTROYS THE SOURCE OF THE RAY. BUT IN THE PROCESS THE FLYER IS HIT...

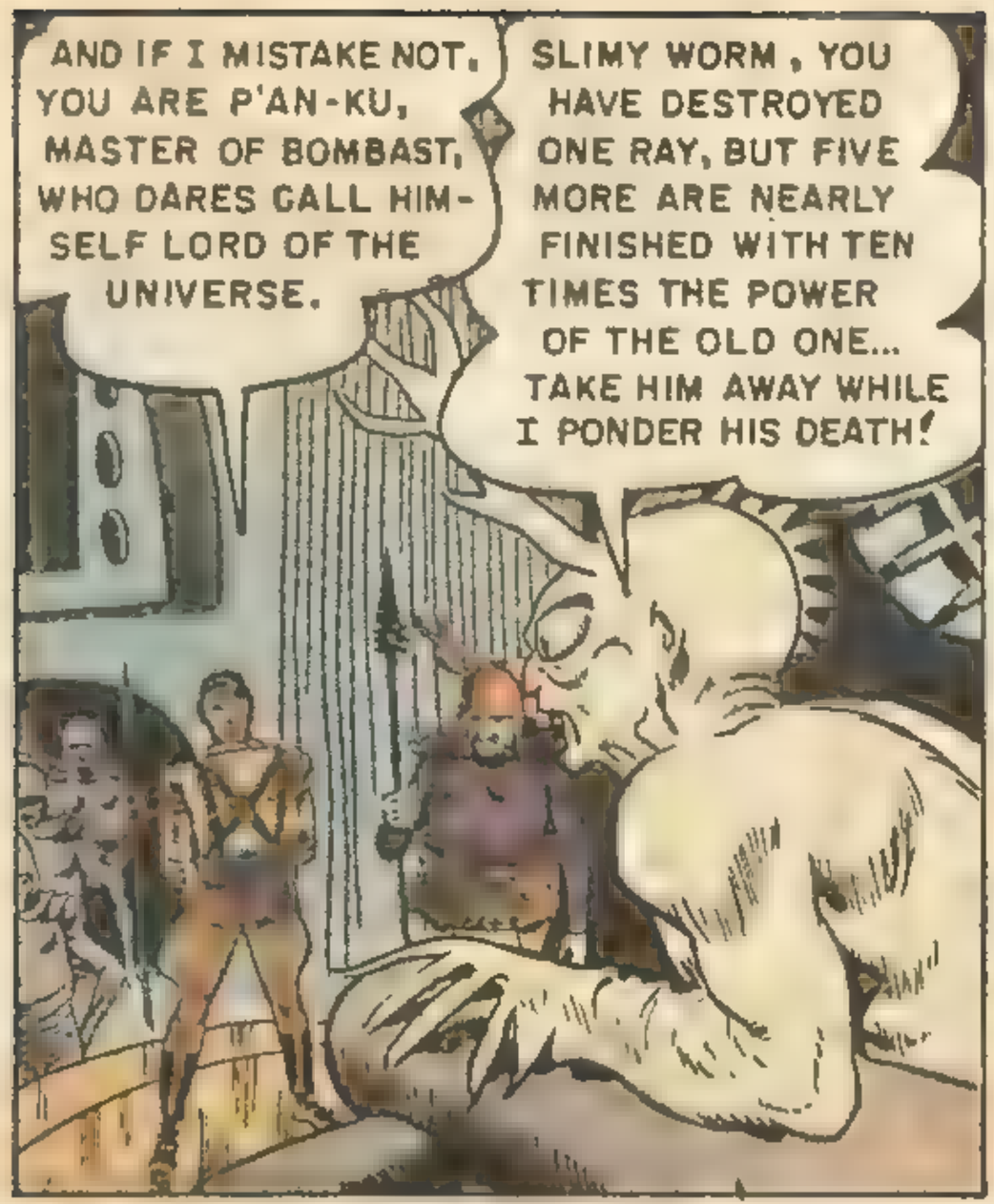
THE FLYER, ALMOST ON THE CRATER FLOOR CRASHES WITH TERRIFIC IMPACT...
CAN'T CONTROL HER. I DONE FOR... UNHHH!

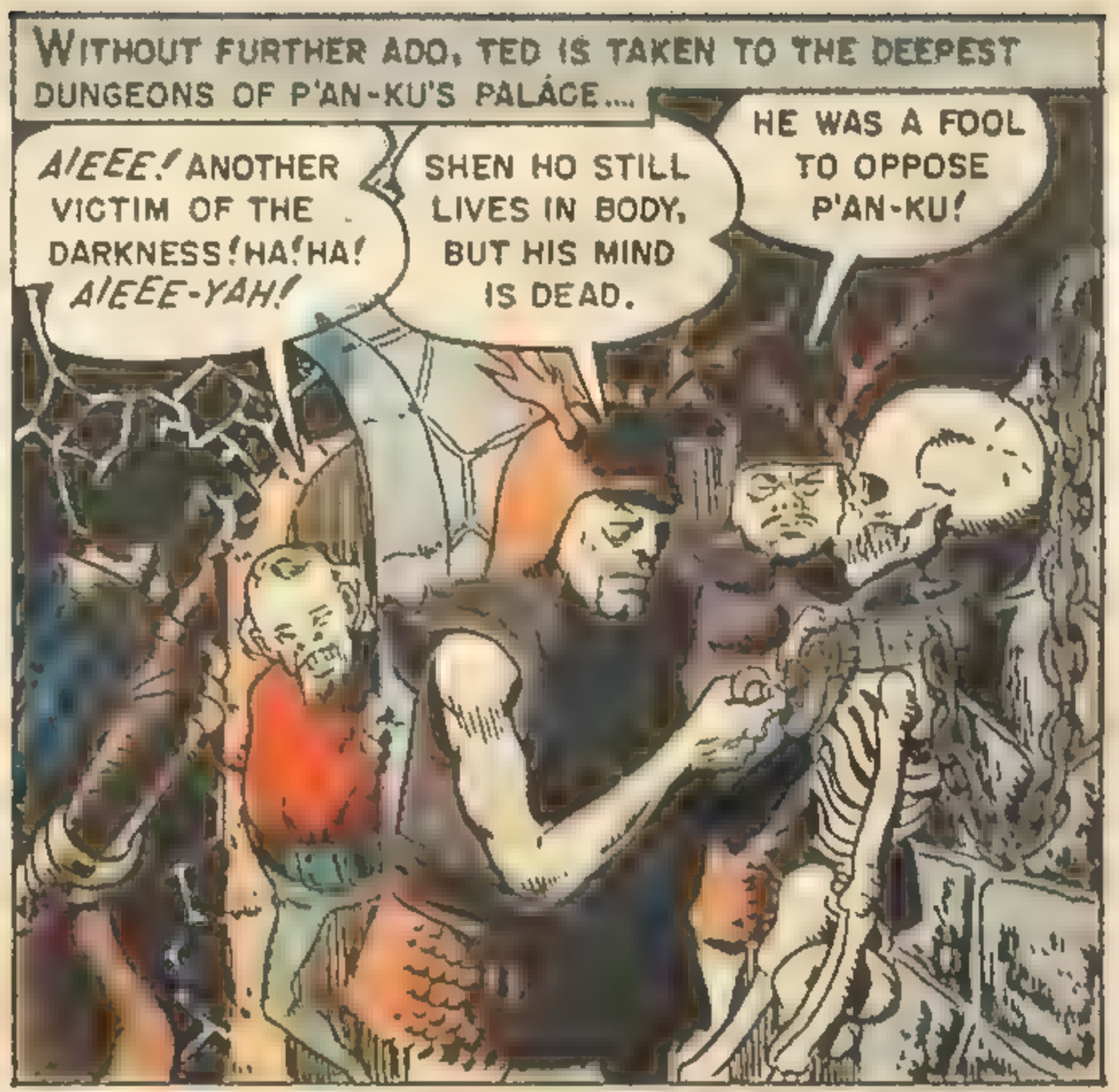

AFTER WAITING TWO DAYS FOR TED'S RETURN, MAZA GAN STAND IT NO LONGER...
IF THESE EVIL LUNITES HAVE KILLED TED THEY WILL PAY FOR IT!.... AHH! I HAVE EARTH. SPEAK VENERABLE!
ARE YOU FRIENDS OF TED DUSTIN?


YES. THIS IS PRESIDENT WHITMORE OF THE UNITED STATES, HIS SUPERIOR. I AM ROGER SANDERS, TED'S ASSISTANT.
GOOD! THEN - LISTEN CLOSELY. THE PRINCESS MAZA AN GONG HAS DECLARED WAR ON P'AN-KU AND WILL STRIKE IN FIVE DAYS. HAVE YOU A WAY TO STRIKE SIMULTANEOUSLY?


YES, THE INTERPLANETARY BATTLESHIP WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING WILL BE READY IN FOUR DAYS. WE WILL ATTACK ON THE FIFTH.
EXCELLENT. IN FIVE DAYS, THEN, ROGER SANDERS, WE WILL MEET AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE AT PEILONG. MAY WE BE IN TIME TO SAVE TED...


BACK ON THE MOON, CONCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO TED AND WITH IT A STARTLING SURPRISE...
OH, VICAR OF THE GREAT LORD SUN, I BRING YOU ALIVE, THE PARASITE FROM DU GUNG WHO DESTROYED THE RAY PROJECTOR.
BY MY ANCESTORS, IT IS TED DUSTIN HIMSELF. DR. WU DESCRIBED YOU VERY WELL.

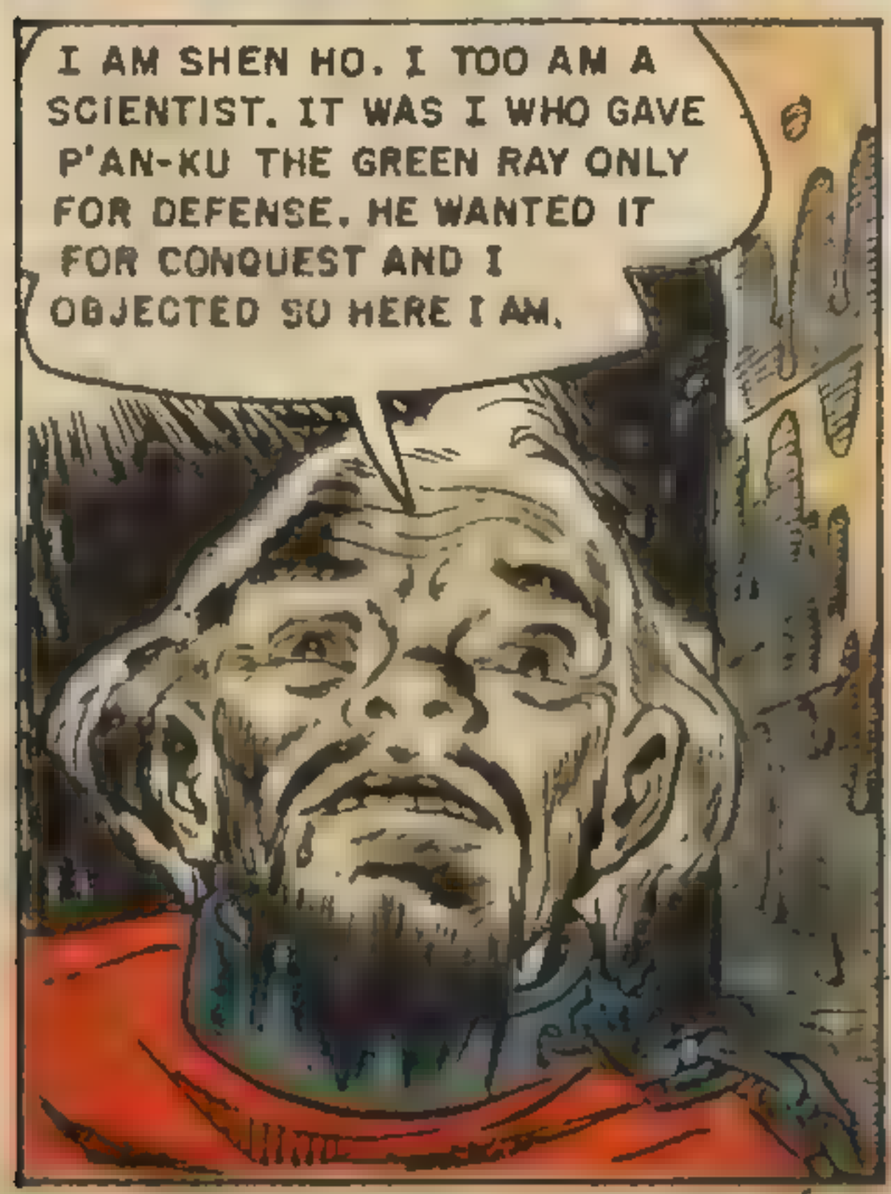

AND IF I MISTAKE NOT, YOU ARE P'AN-KU, MASTER OF BOMBAST, WHO DARES CALL HIMSELF LORD OF THE UNIVERSE.
SLIMY WORM, YOU HAVE DESTROYED ONE RAY, BUT FIVE MORE ARE NEARLY FINISHED WITH TEN TIMES THE POWER OF THE OLD ONE... TAKE HIM AWAY WHILE I PONDER HIS DEATH!


WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, TED IS TAKEN TO THE DEEPEST DUNGEONS OF P'AN-KU'S PALACE....
AIEEE! ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE DARKNESS! HA! HA! AIEEE-YAH!
SHEN HO STILL LIVES IN BODY, BUT HIS MIND IS DEAD.
HE WAS A FOOL TO OPPOSE P'AN-KU!

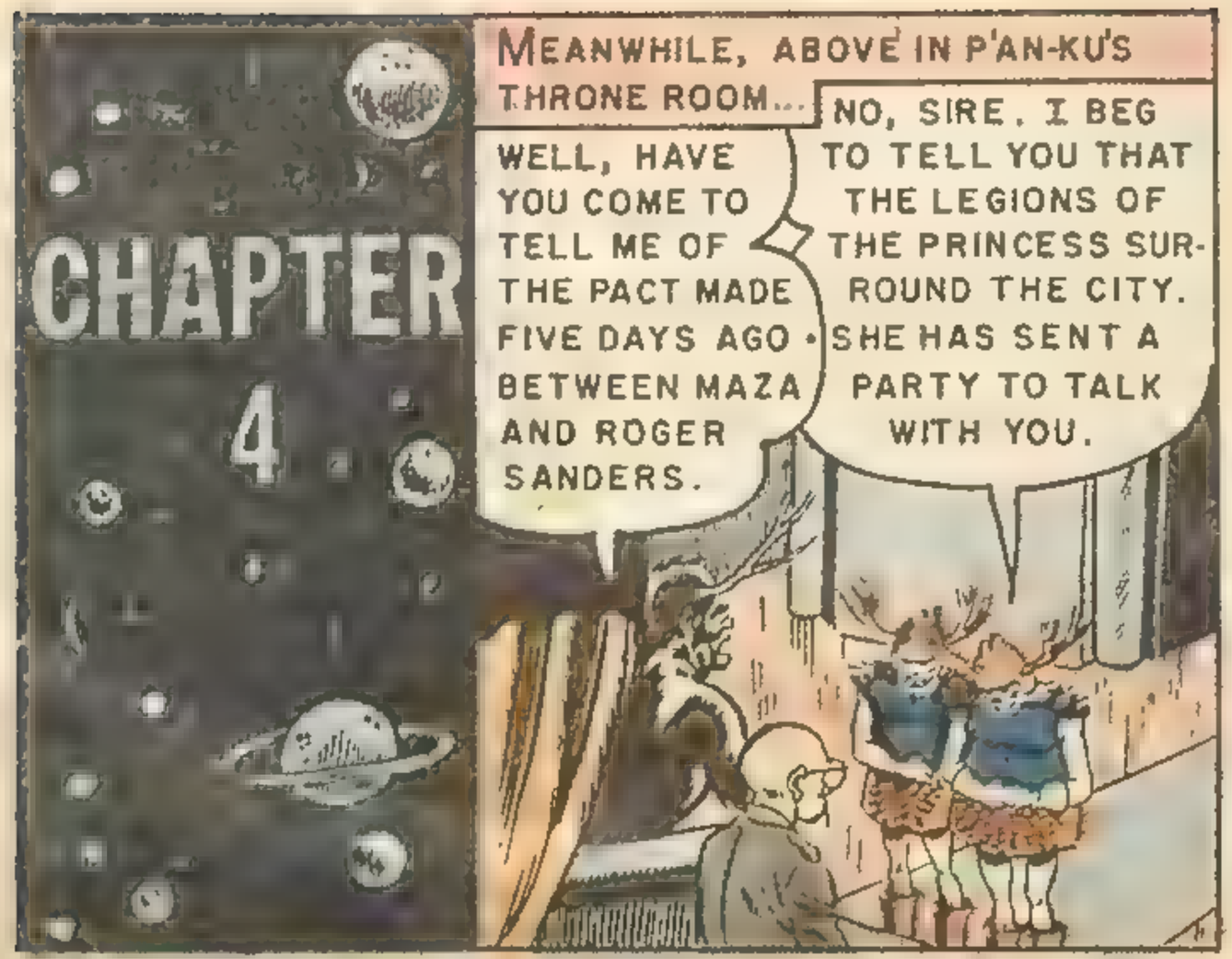
WE LEAVE YOU IN DISTINGUISHED COMPANY, FOOL OF DU GONG. MAY YOU BE HAPPY HERE!
YES, YOU HAVE THE COMPANY OF MIGHTY KHANS, DOUGHTY WARRIORS AND A MADMAN WHO WAS ONCE THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL. GOOD-BYE, FOOL.

BUT WHEN HIS CAPTORS HAVE GONE...
WHO ARE YOU, WHITE MAN?
MEN CALL ME TED DUSTIN. I AM FROM DU GONG.

FROM DU GONG! ARE YOU MAD, OR CAN IT BE THAT I AM AS MAD AS I PRETEND TO BE? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
IN MY SPACE FLIER. I AM A SCIENTIST.


I AM SHEN HO. I TOO AM A SCIENTIST. IT WAS I WHO GAVE P'AN-KU THE GREEN RAY ONLY FOR DEFENSE. HE WANTED IT FOR CONQUEST AND I OBJECTED SO HERE I AM.

BENEATH MY ARMOR I HAVE DEGRAVITORS. THEY ARE WEAPONS OF MY OWN INVENTION. WITH THEM WE CAN DESTROY OUR FETTERS COULD I BUT GET AT THEM.
I SEE! IF THERE WERE SOME WAY TO CUT YOUR ARMOR OPEN. I HAVE IT--TEETH! TEETH FROM THE SKULLS OF THE POOR UNFORTUNATES AROUND US!

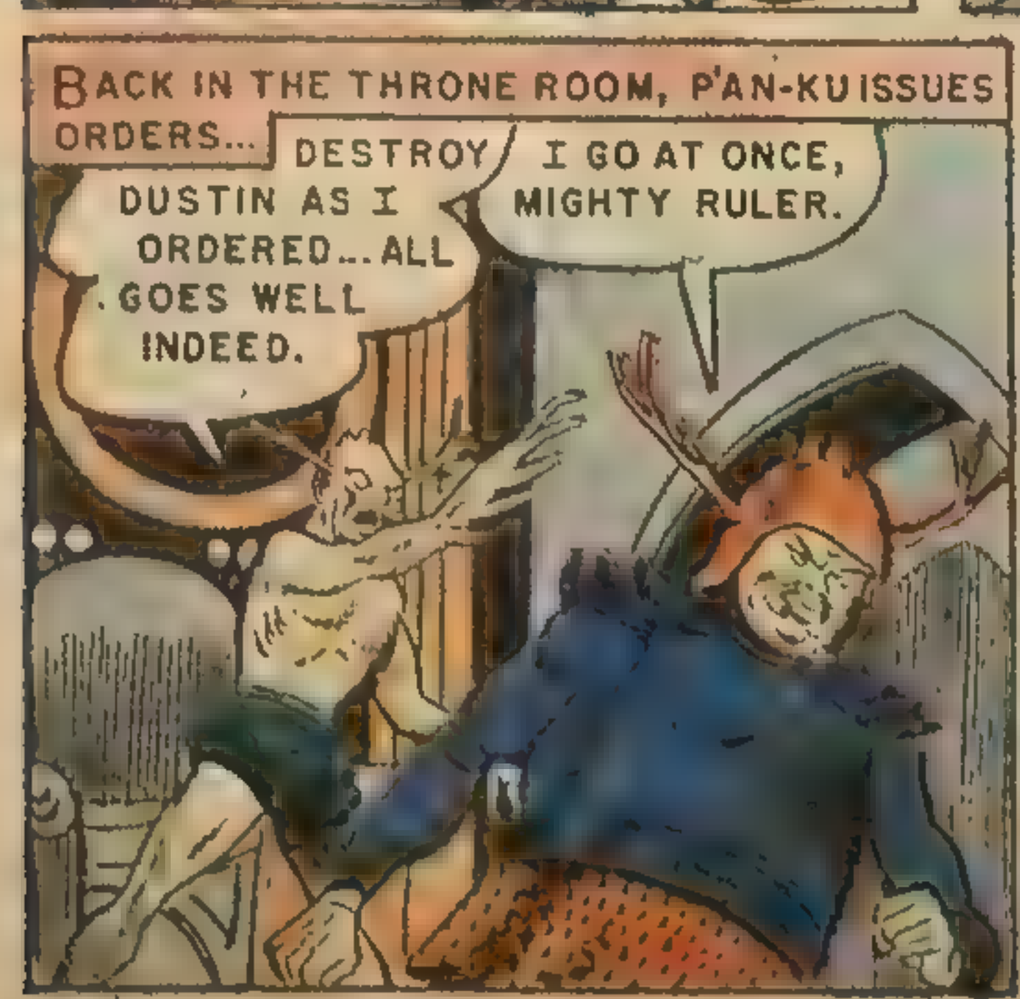

CHAPTER 4
MEANWHILE, ABOVE IN P'AN-KU'S THRONE ROOM...
WELL, HAVE YOU COME TO TELL ME OF THE PACT MADE FIVE DAYS AGO BETWEEN MAZA AND ROGER SANDERS.
NO, SIRE. I BEG TO TELL YOU THAT THE LEGIONS OF THE PRINCESS SURROUND THE CITY. SHE HAS SENT A PARTY TO TALK WITH YOU.

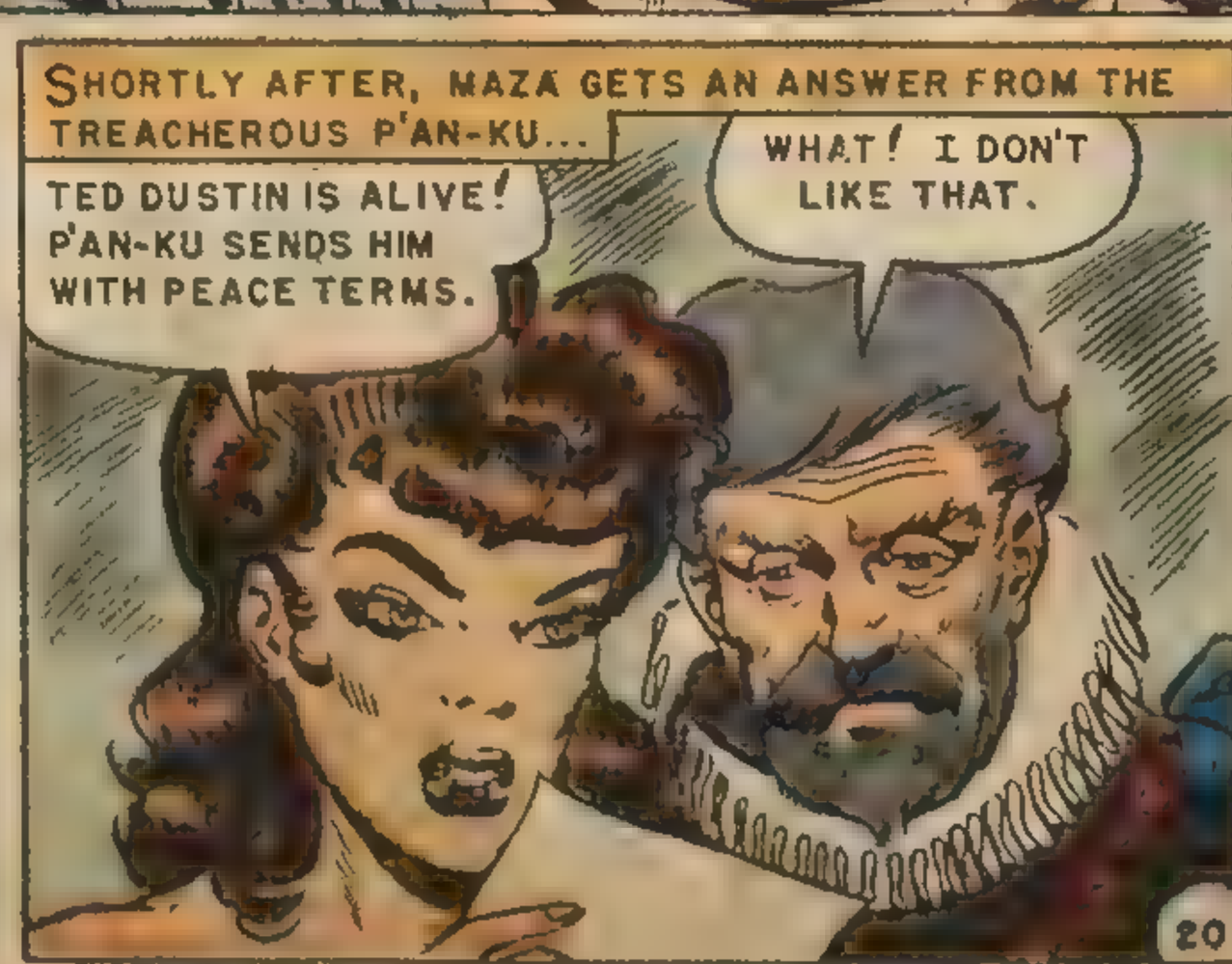
SEND THEM IN.
YES, GREAT ONE.

A MOMENT LATER AS P'AN-KU READS MAZA'S MESSAGE...
SHE DARE DEMAND THE RELEASE OF TED DUSTIN! TELL HER HE DIES THIS DAY IN BOILING OIL!
IF I MIGHT SPEAK TO YOU IN PRIVATE...

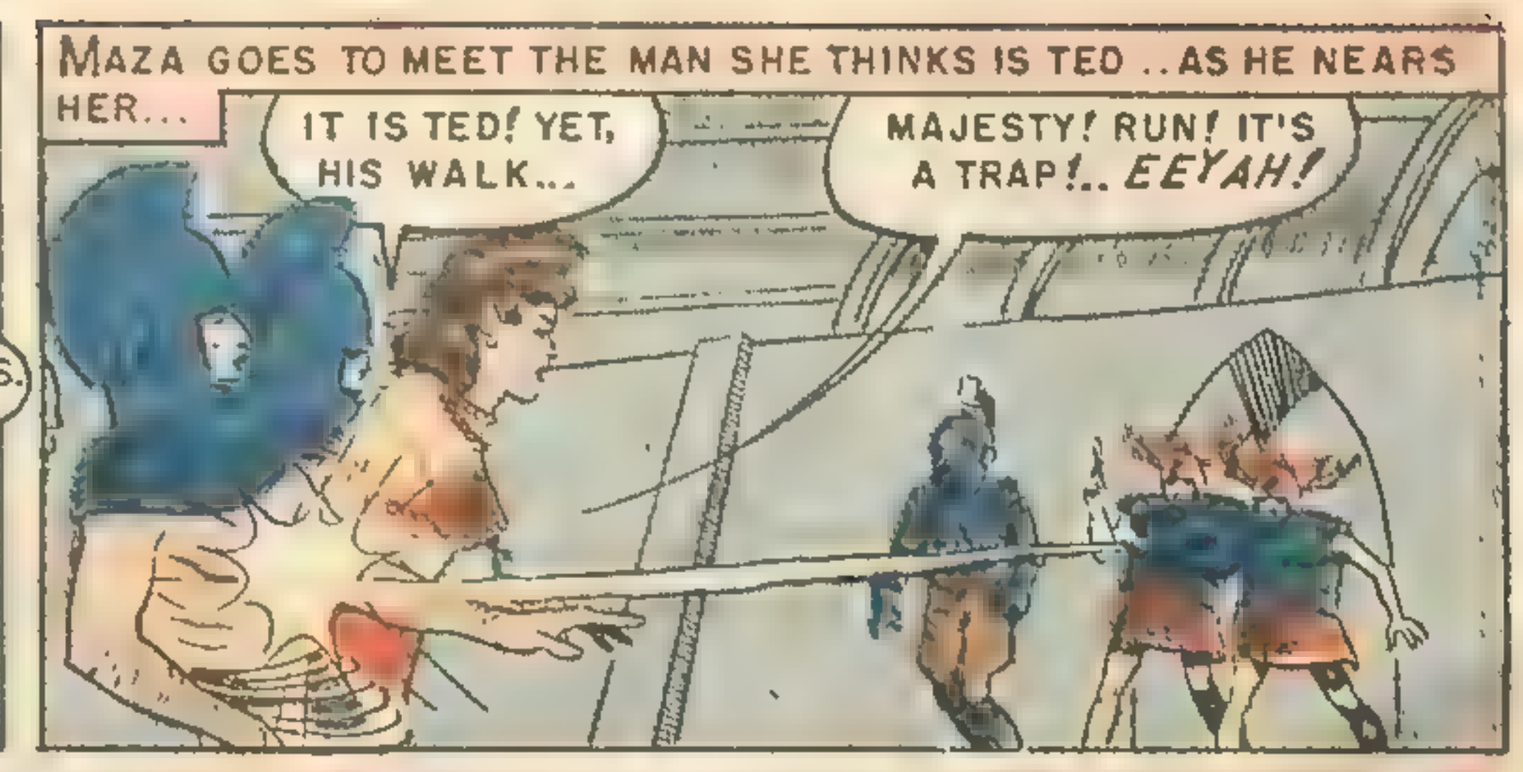
WHEN THE MESSENGERS ARE GONE...
WHY NOT TELL THESE MEN DUSTIN WILL BE FREED AND SENT TO TALK WITH HER.
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?

WAIT. THE MAN SENT OUT WILL NOT BE DUSTIN, ONLY SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE HIM. USING THIS MAN AS A DECOY WE CAN CAPTURE MAZA.
AHH! TELL ME MORE, DR. WU.


BACK IN THE THRONE ROOM, P'AN-KU ISSUES ORDERS...
DESTROY DUSTIN AS I ORDERED... ALL GOES WELL INDEED.
I GO AT ONCE, MIGHTY RULER.


SHORTLY AFTER, MAZA GETS AN ANSWER FROM THE TREACHEROUS P'AN-KU...
TED DUSTIN IS ALIVE! P'AN-KU SENDS HIM WITH PEACE TERMS.
WHAT! I DON'T LIKE THAT.

THAT MONSTER IS SETTING A TRAP FOR YOU, MAZA-- DON'T GO.
ENOUGH! THE TERMS IN THIS LETTER ARE FAIR. I AM TO GO WITH TEN OF MY BEST WARRIORS.


MAZA GOES TO MEET THE MAN SHE THINKS IS TED .. AS HE NEARS HER...
IT IS TED! YET, HIS WALK...
MAJESTY! RUN! IT'S A TRAP!.. EEYAH!

...P'AN-KU WILL PAY FOR THIS TREACHERY!
BEHIND US, PRINCESS. WE WILL PROTECT YOU!

AN INSTANT LATER THE FULL EXTENT OF P'AN-KU'S TREACHERY IS APPARENT...
TO THE DEATH! FOR MAZA!
DO NOT HURT THE PRINCESS. THE GREAT ONE WISHES HER ALIVE!

SEEING THE AMBUSH MAZA'S CAVALRY FUTILELY RUSH TO HER RESCUE!
GO BACK! THE RAYS WILL WIPE YOU OUT!
FOR MAZA! FOR MAZA!

SUDDENLY A GLOBE SHOOTS OUT FROM THE CITY AND DESCENDS OVER MAZA...
THEY'LL NEVER TAKE ME.. EEEEEE!

HELP! HELP!
THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN TAKEN! REVENGE! REVENGE!

INSIDE THE CITY, MAZA IS BROUGHT BEFORE A GLOATING P'AN-KU...

YOU TREACHEROUS MONSTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH TED DUSTIN?

BY THIS TIME, HE IS DEAD.

FOR THIS YOU WILL DIE AND YOUR CITY WILL BE DESTROYED!

FOOL! A HUNDRED OF MY GLOBES ARE EVEN NOW ON THEIR WAY TO WIPE ULTU OUT!

PRINCESS, I DO NOT WISH REVENGE. BECOME MY QUEEN AND RULE TWO WORLDS WITH ME.

NEVER. GIVE ME DEATH IN PREFERENCE TO THAT.

YOU SPEAK HASTILY... COME WITH ME AND I WILL SHOW YOU THE BEGINNING OF MY CONQUEST OF EARTH!

OHH! IF I WERE ONLY FREE TO KILL YOU!

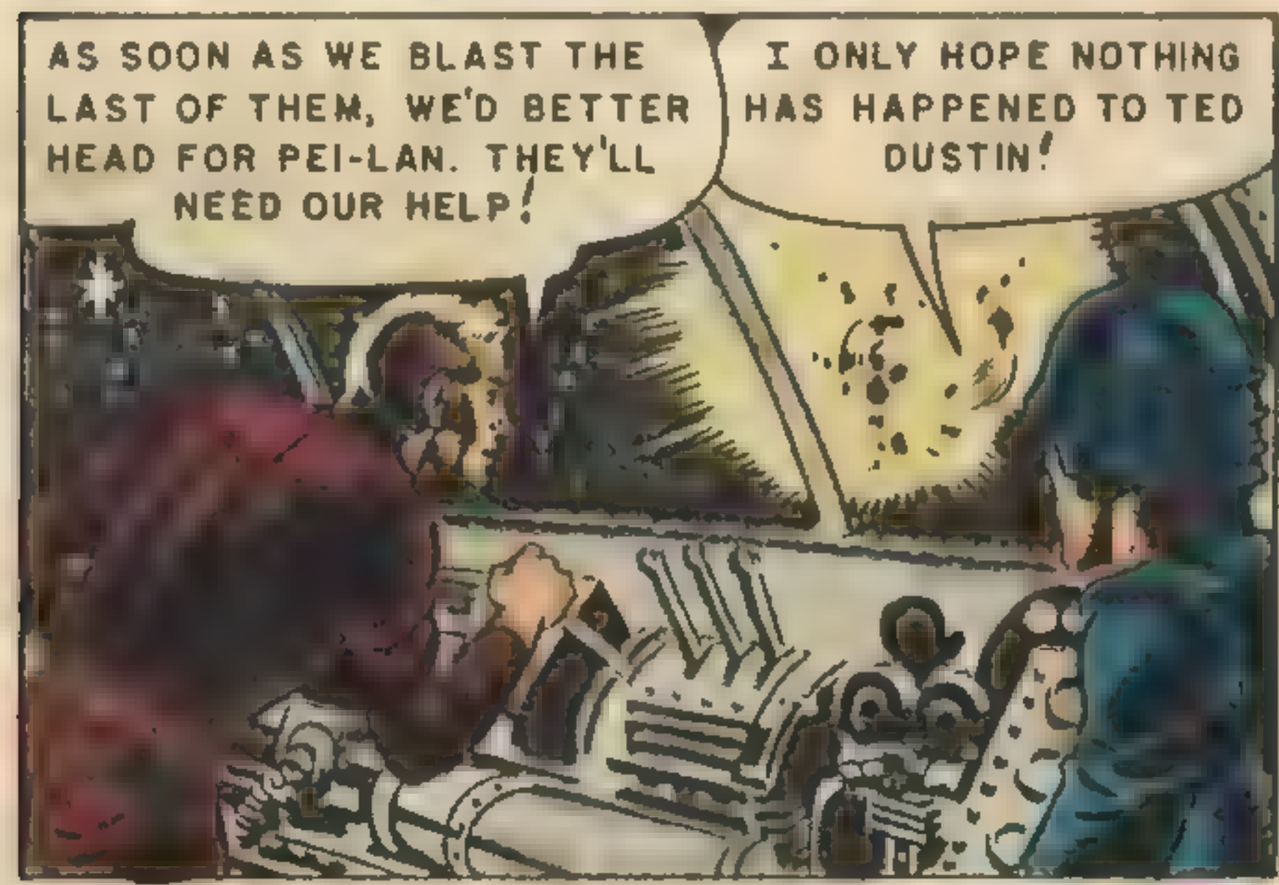
AT THAT MOMENT, ROGER SANDERS AND THE MIGHTY INTER-PLANETARY BATTLESHIP, LUNA, ARRIVE FROM EARTH...

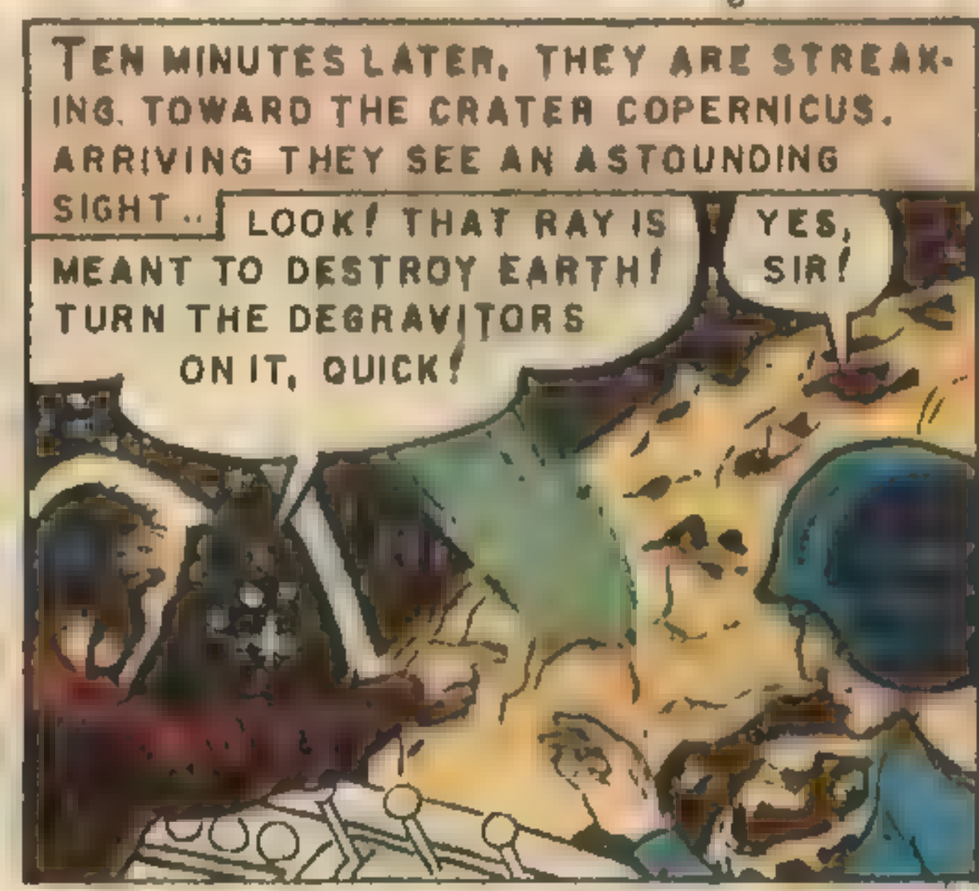
LOOK, GLOBES OF THE LUNITIES HEADING TOWARD TYCHO. THEY MUST BE PULLING A SNEAK ATTACK ON MAZA'S CITY WHILE SHE ATTACKS P'AN-KU!

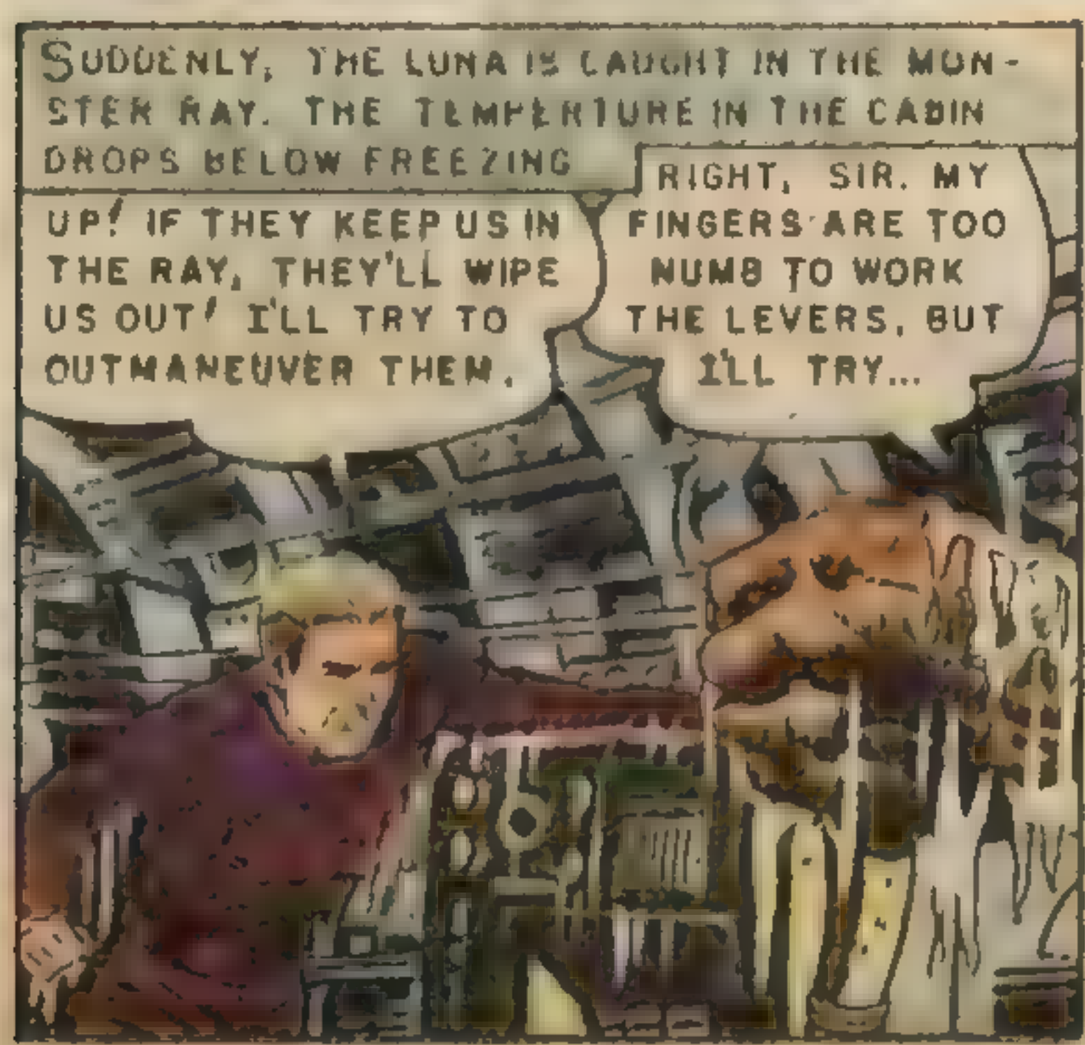
SHALL WE GO AFTER THEM, SIR?

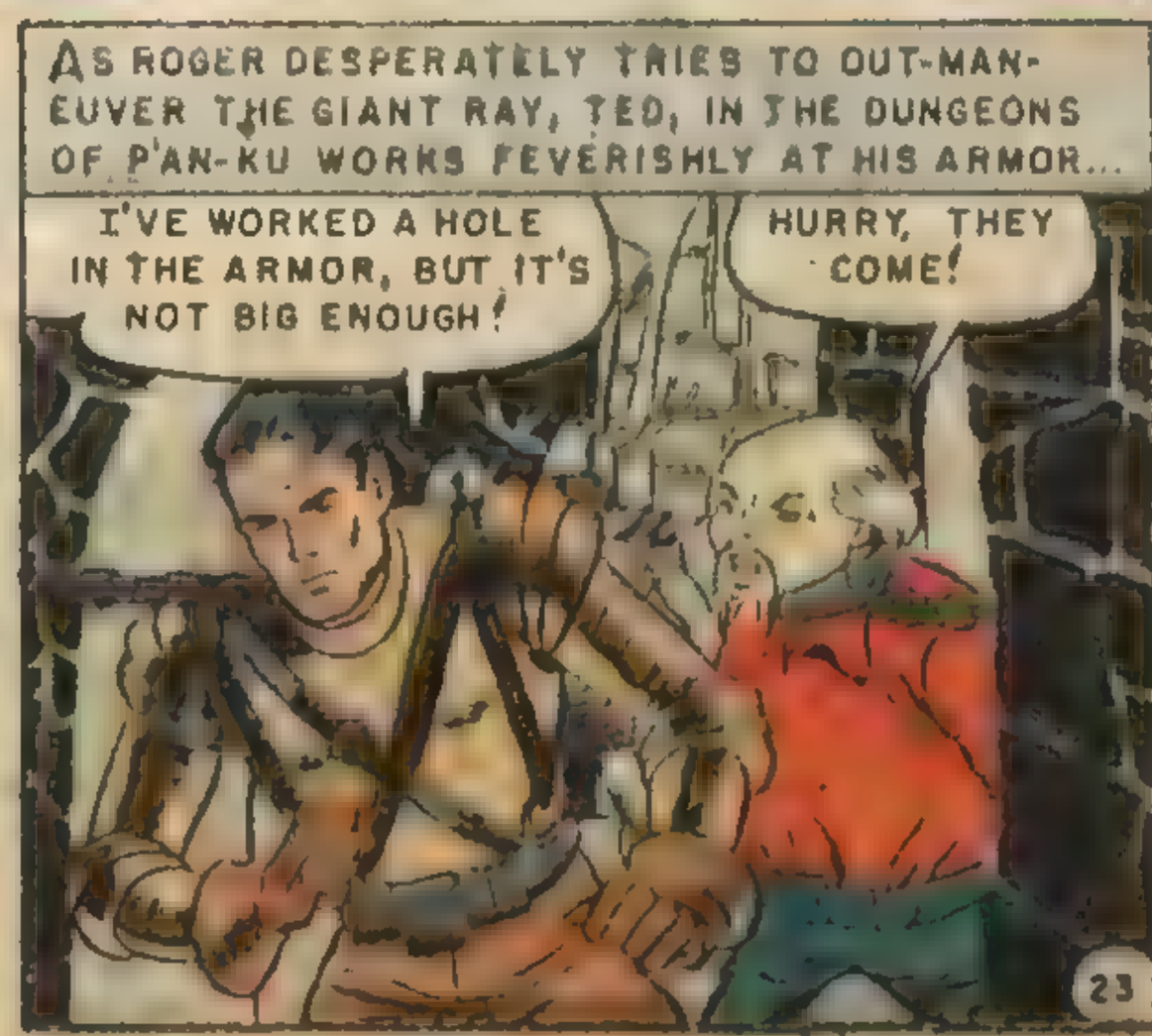
OF COURSE. WITH OUR NEW DEFENSE RAYS NOTHING CAN PENETRATE THE AREA AROUND THE SHIP. WE'LL WIPE THEM OUT!
THAT'S A LESSON THEY NEED BADLY.

THE BATTLESHIP FROM EARTH CATCHES THE RAIDERS JUST OUTSIDE ULTU...

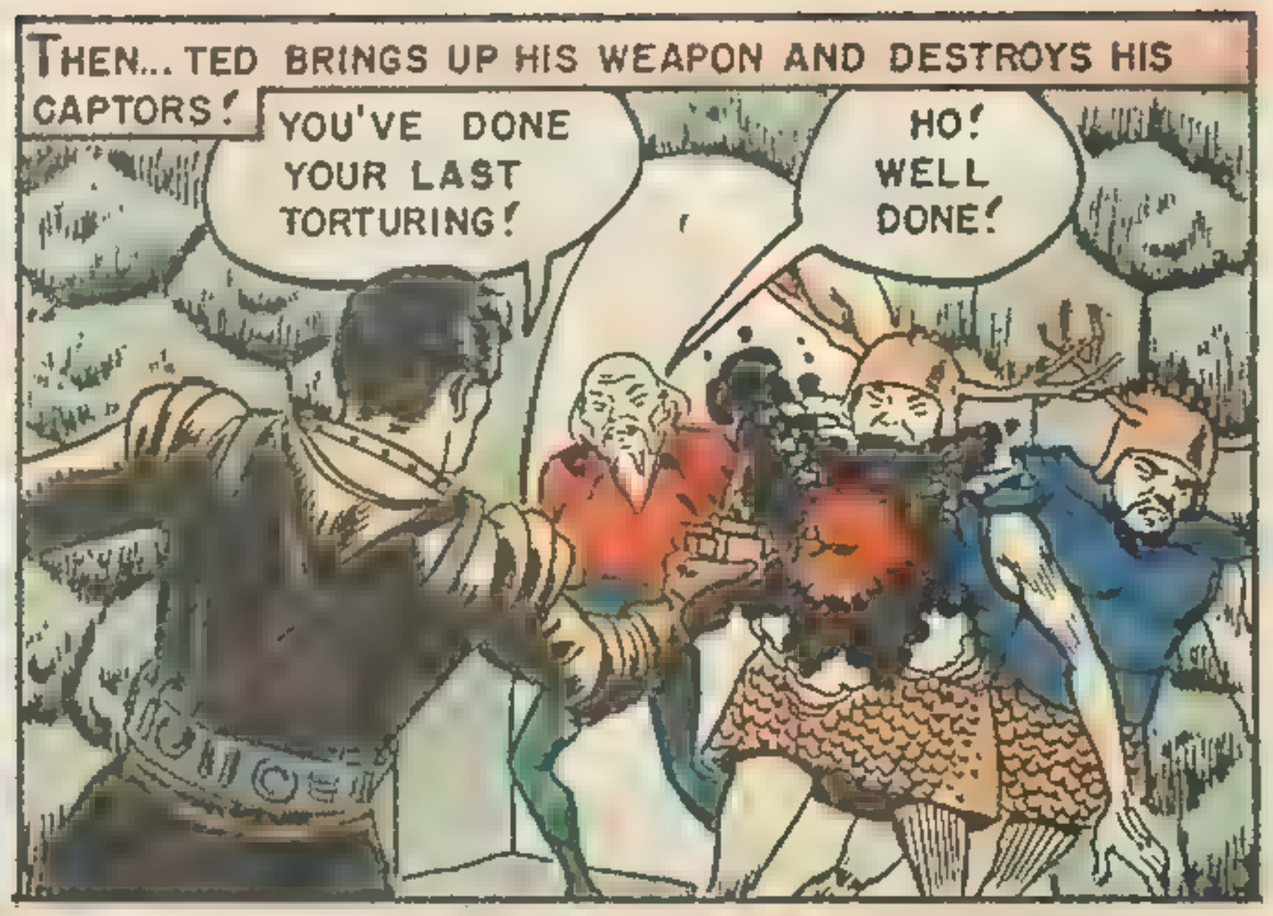

AS SOON AS WE BLAST THE LAST OF THEM, WE'D BETTER HEAD FOR PEI-LAN. THEY'LL NEED OUR HELP!
I ONLY HOPE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO TED DUSTIN!


TEN MINUTES LATER, THEY ARE STREAKING TOWARD THE CRATER COPERNICUS. ARRIVING THEY SEE AN ASTOUNDING SIGHT...
LOOK! THAT RAY IS MEANT TO DESTROY EARTH! TURN THE DEGRAVITORS ON IT, QUICK!
YES, SIR!

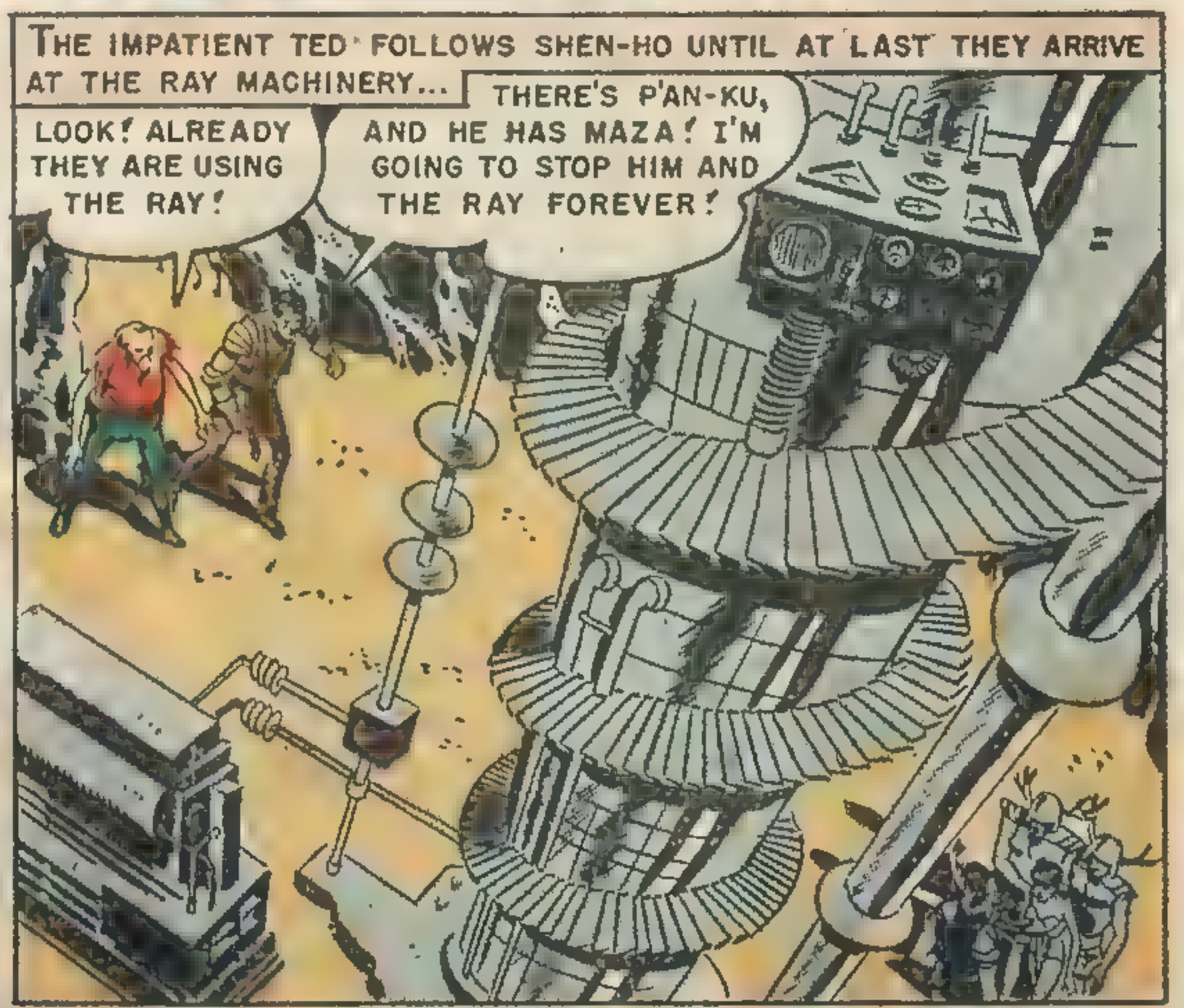

SUDDENLY, THE LUNA IS CAUGHT IN THE MONSTER RAY. THE TEMPERTURE IN THE CABIN DROPS BELOW FREEZING
UP! IF THEY KEEP US IN THE RAY, THEY'LL WIPE US OUT! I'LL TRY TO OUTMANEUVER THEM.
RIGHT, SIR. MY FINGERS ARE TOO NUMB TO WORK THE LEVERS, BUT I'LL TRY...


AS ROGER DESPERATELY TRIES TO OUT-MANEUVER THE GIANT RAY, TED, IN THE DUNGEONS OF P'AN-KU WORKS FEVERISHLY AT HIS ARMOR...
I'VE WORKED A HOLE IN THE ARMOR, BUT IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH!
HURRY, THEY COME!

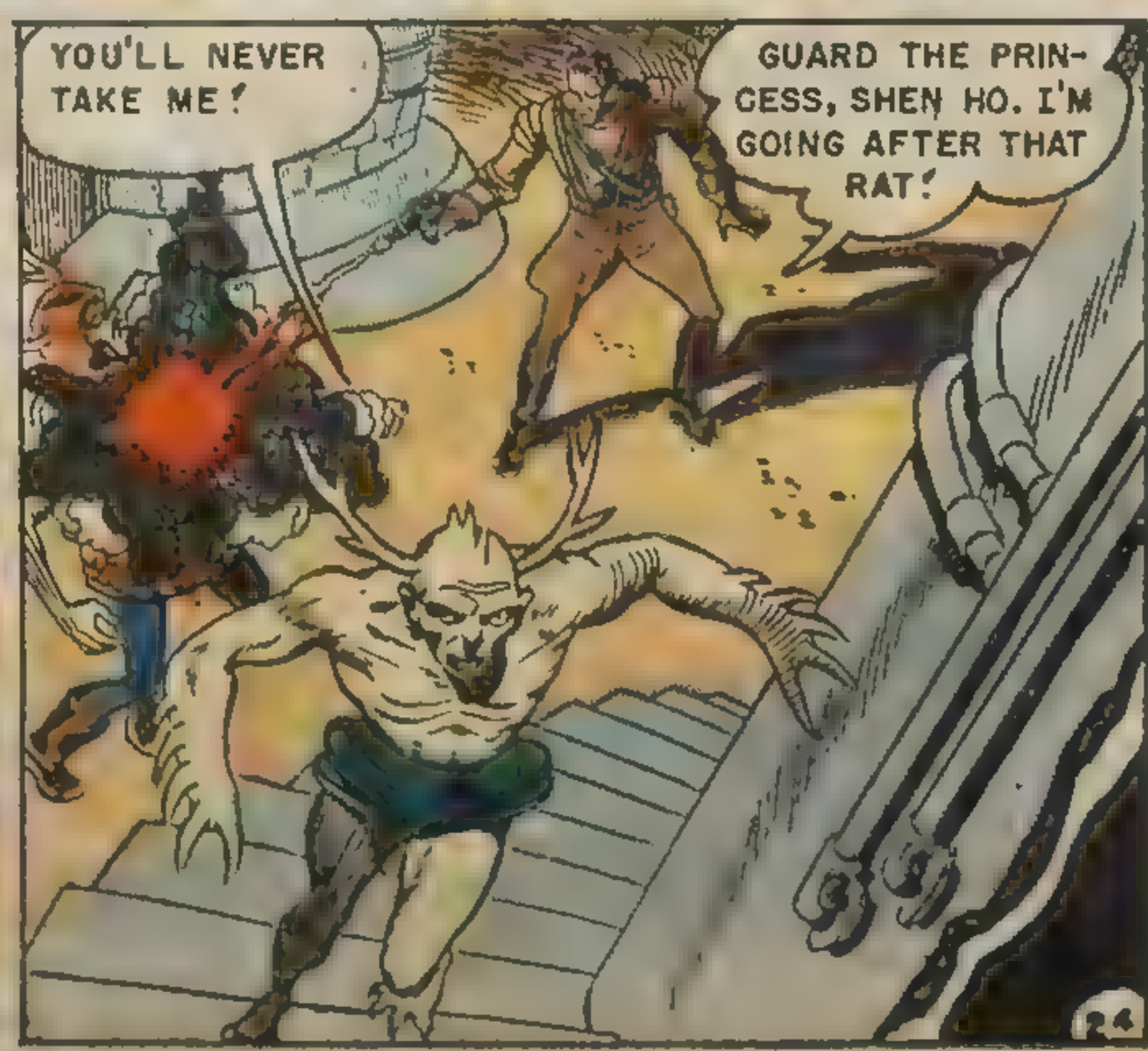
NOW DOG, WE TAKE YOU TO YOUR DEATH.
I THINK IT IS YOU WHO ARE GOING TO DIE!


THEN... TED BRINGS UP HIS WEAPON AND DESTROYS HIS CAPTORS!
YOU'VE DONE YOUR LAST TORTURING!
HO! WELL DONE!

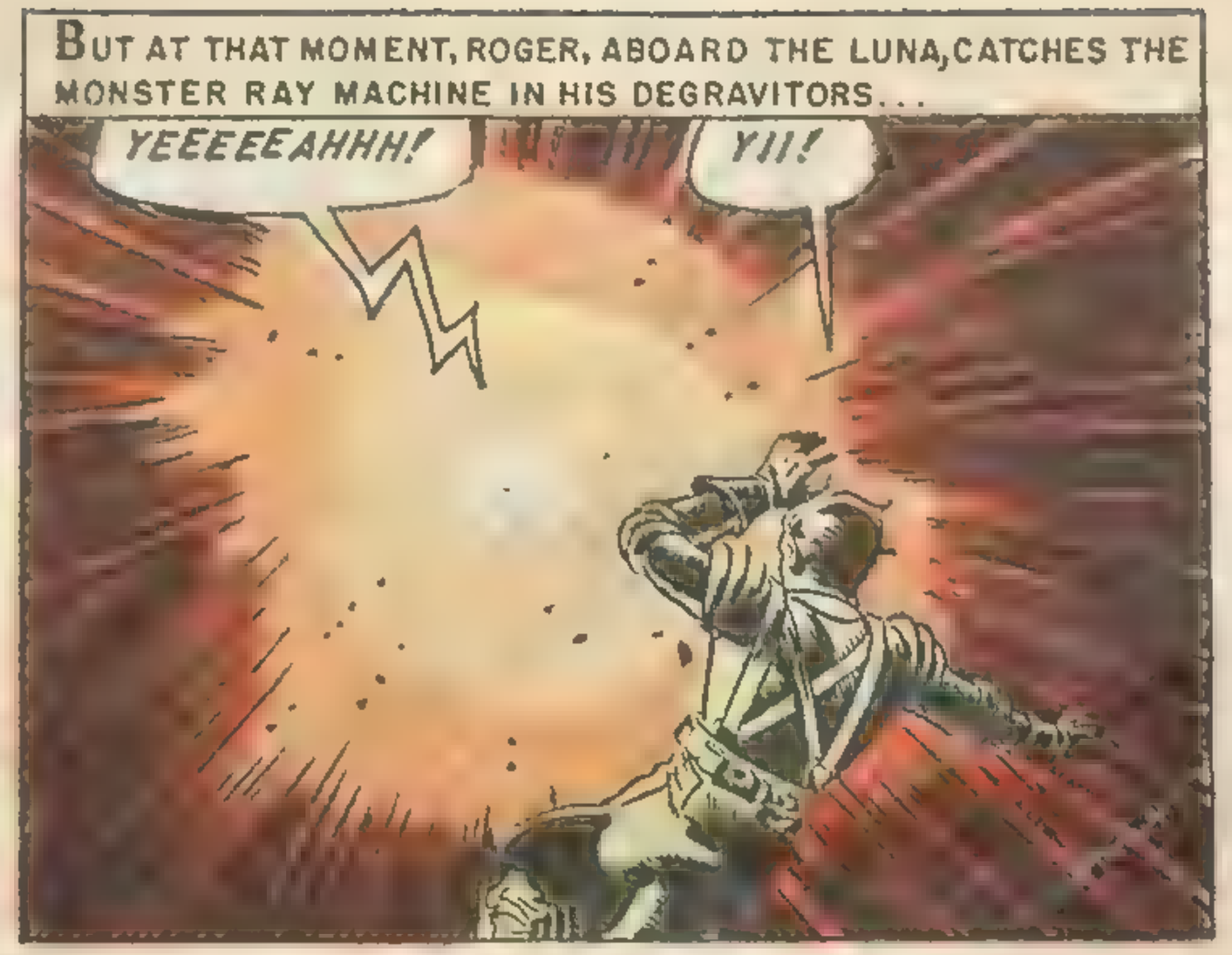
COME I WILL TAKE YOU TO WHERE P'AN-KU HAS BUILT THE GREAT RAY TO DESTROY YOUR WORLD!
GOOD! I ONLY HOPE THERE IS YET TIME!


THE IMPATIENT TED FOLLOWS SHEN-HO UNTIL AT LAST THEY ARRIVE AT THE RAY MACHINERY...
LOOK! ALREADY THEY ARE USING THE RAY!
THERE'S P'AN-KU, AND HE HAS MAZA! I'M GOING TO STOP HIM AND THE RAY FOREVER!

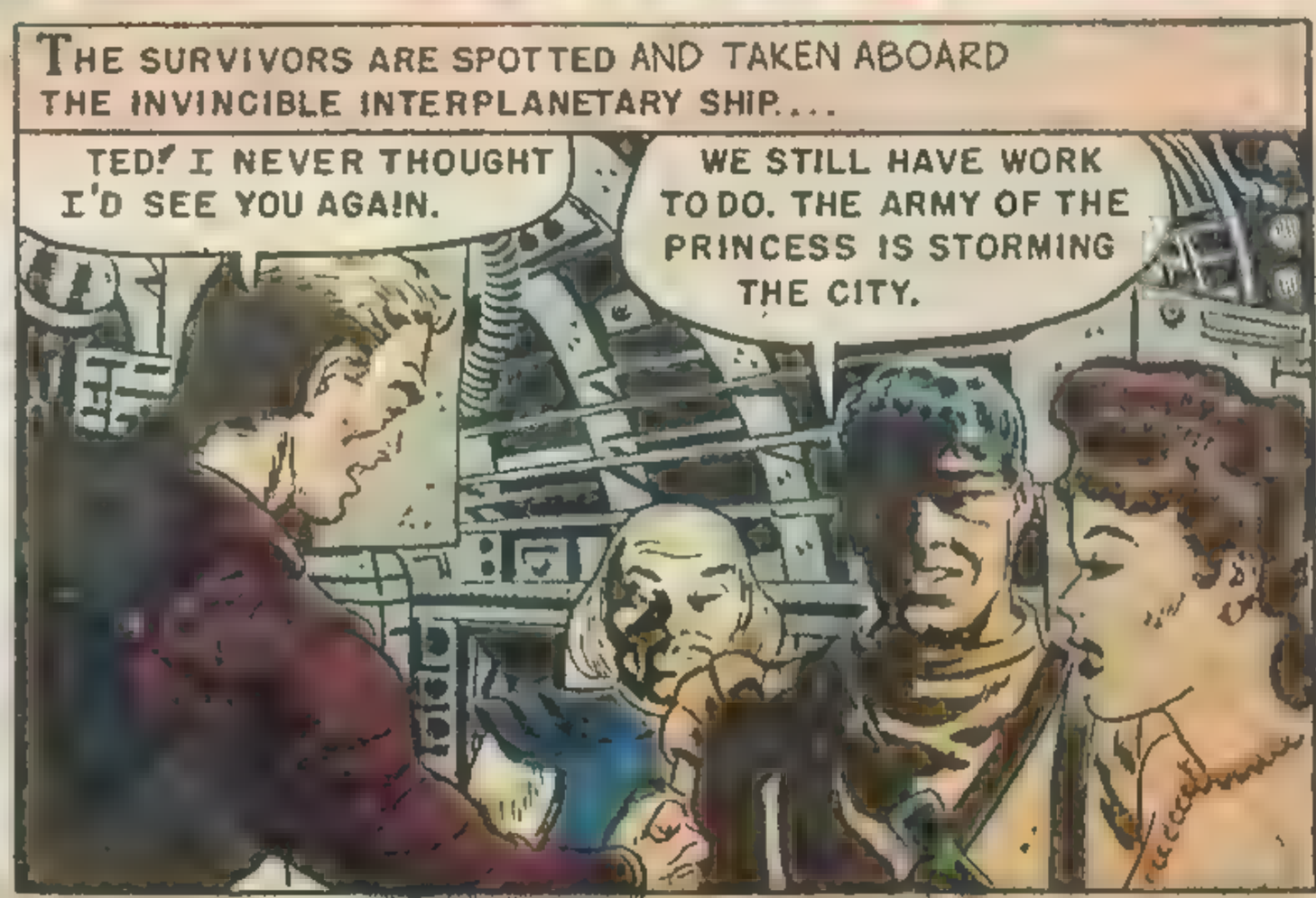
PRINCESS, PERHAPS YOU WILL CHANGE... AHHH! TED DUSTIN!
TED!
HALT, YOU SLIMY KILLER!

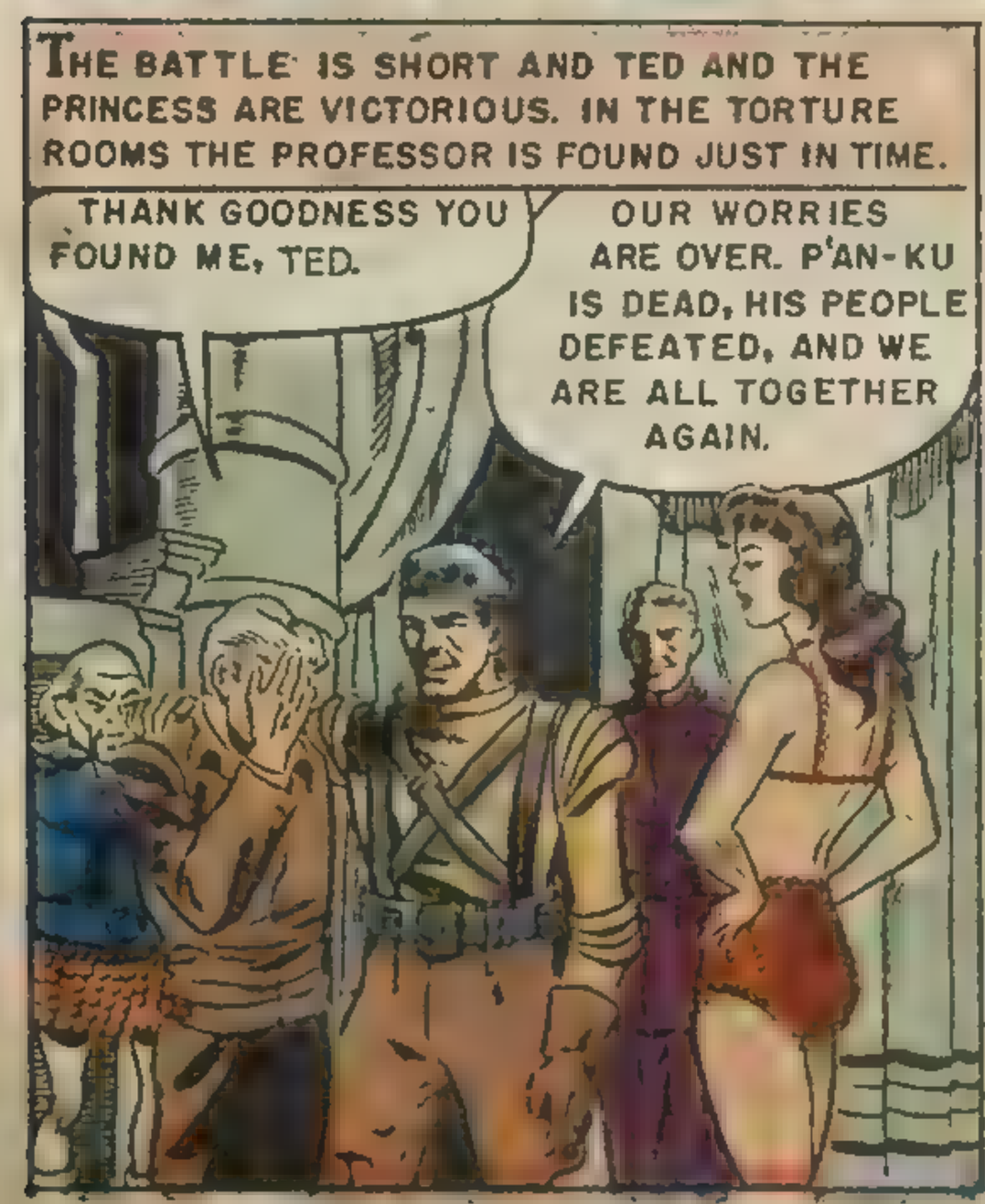

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!
GUARD THE PRINCESS, SHEN HO. I'M GOING AFTER THAT RAT!

YOU'LL NEVER STOP THIS RAY!
P'AN-KU! I'M COMING AFTER YOU!


BUT AT THAT MOMENT, ROGER, ABOARD THE LUNA, CATCHES THE MONSTER RAY MACHINE IN HIS DEGRAVITORS...
YEEEEEAHHH!
YII!

IT'S THE LUNA! GOOD OLD ROGER! HE'S SAVED THE DAY!


THE SURVIVORS ARE SPOTTED AND TAKEN ABOARD THE INVINCIBLE INTERPLANETARY SHIP....
TED! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN.
WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO. THE ARMY OF THE PRINCESS IS STORMING THE CITY.

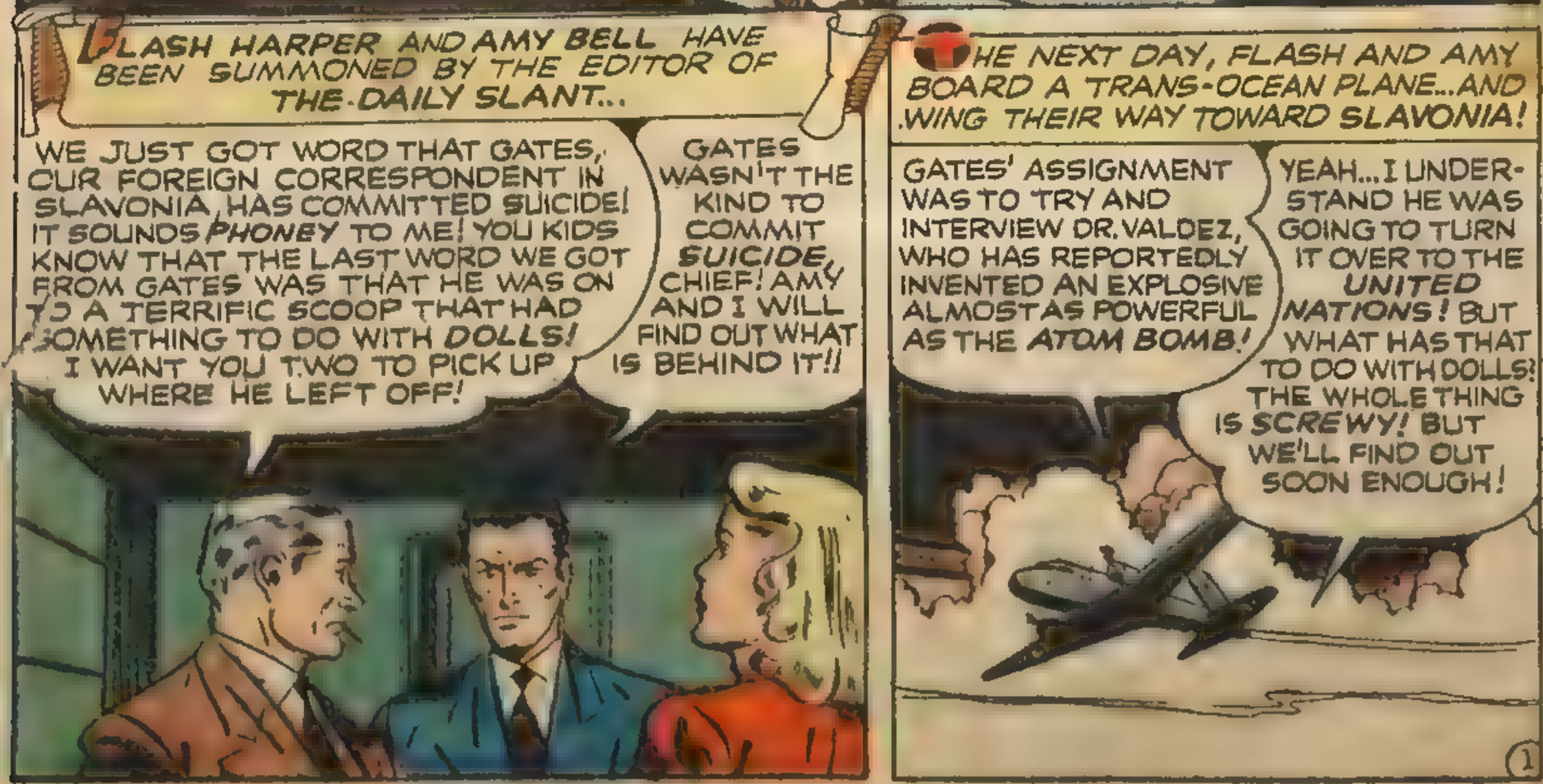

THE BATTLE IS SHORT AND TED AND THE PRINCESS ARE VICTORIOUS. IN THE TORTURE ROOMS THE PROFESSOR IS FOUND JUST IN TIME.
THANK GOODNESS YOU FOUND ME, TED.
OUR WORRIES ARE OVER. P'AN-KU IS DEAD, HIS PEOPLE DEFEATED, AND WE ARE ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.

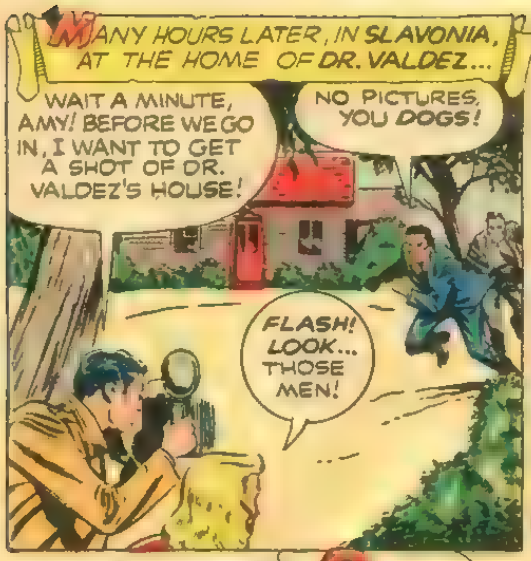
A FEW DAYS LATER AT ULTU, A MAGNIFICENT CEREMONY TAKES PLACE AS TED AND HIS PRINCESS ARE MARRIED.
MAY THEY, AND ALL OUR PEOPLE, ALWAYS BY HAPPY.
I CAN SEE THAT I'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL WHEN I WANT TO VISIT THIS COUPLE.

FLASH Harper

"The DEATH DOLL"

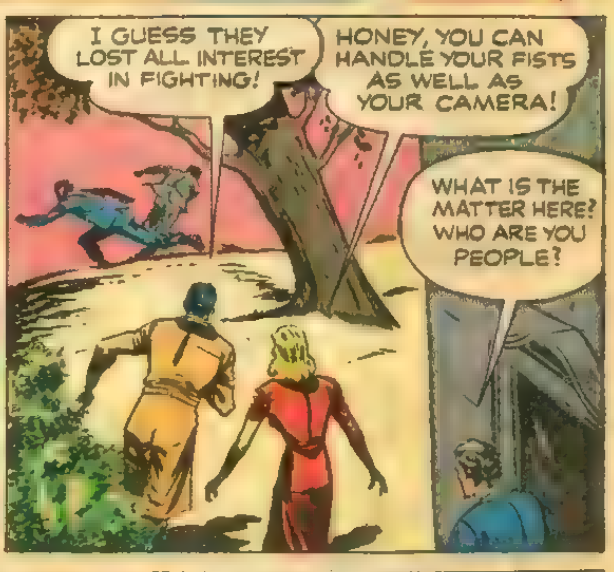
A DOLL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TOY THAT MEANT PLAYTIME TO LITTLE GIRLS, BUT *FLASH HARPER*, CRACK NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER, FINDS A NEW TYPE OF DOLL, WHICH IS ANYTHING BUT A *TOY*... A DOLL THAT MEANS *DEATH*.... AND HAS *FLASH* MARKED AS ONE OF ITS PLAYTHINGS!!




MANY HOURS LATER, IN SLAVONIA, AT THE HOME OF DR. VALDEZ...
WAIT A MINUTE, AMY! BEFORE WE GO IN, I WANT TO GET A SHOT OF DR. VALDEZ'S HOUSE!
NO PICTURES, YOU DOGS!
FLASH! LOOK... THOSE MEN!

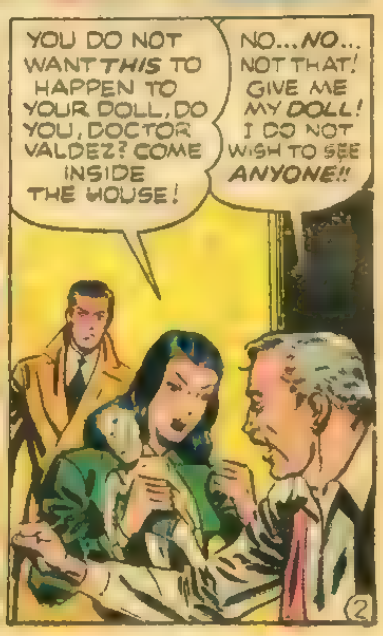
WELL, WELL! QUITE A RECEPTION!!
LOOK OUT!!
SOK!

I SAVED ONE FOR YOU, TOO!
OOF!

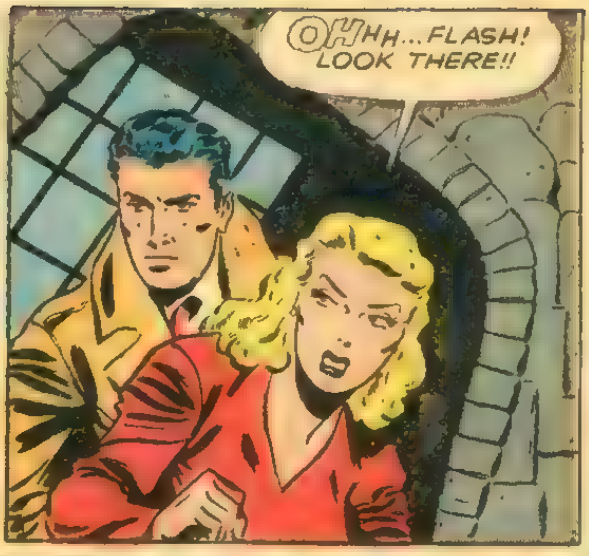

I GUESS THEY LOST ALL INTEREST IN FIGHTING!
HONEY, YOU CAN HANDLE YOUR FISTS AS WELL AS YOUR CAMERA!
WHAT IS THE MATTER HERE? WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?

WE'RE FROM THE DAILY SLANT... AN AMERICAN PAPER! WE'D LIKE TO SEE DR. VALDEZ!
NOBODY CAN SEE DR. VALDEZ! HE'S A VERY SICK MAN!!

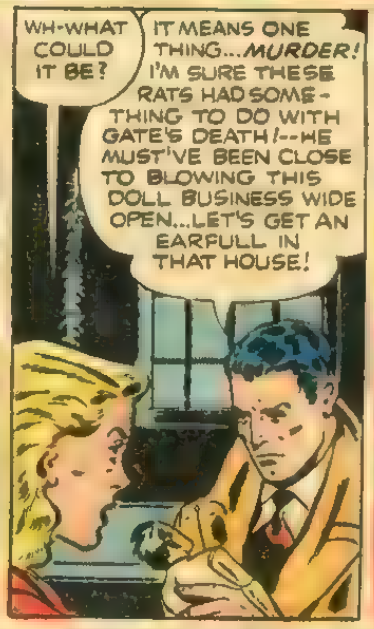
SOMEBODY... WANT... TO SEE... M-ME? WHO--?
COME INSIDE, DR. VALDEZ! I FOUND YOUR DOLL, SEE?

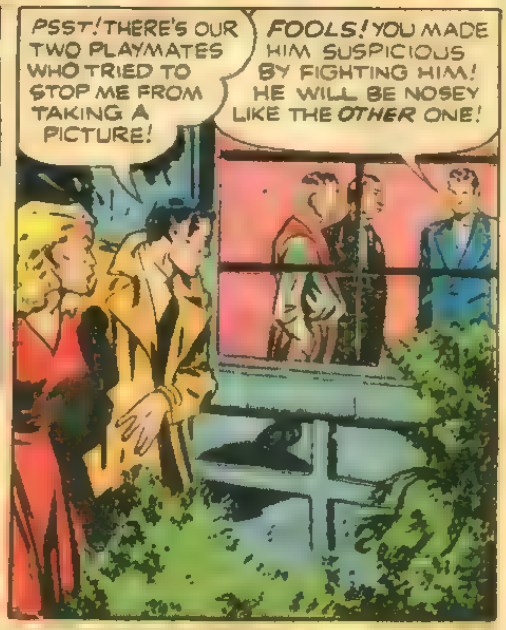

YOU DO NOT WANT THIS TO HAPPEN TO YOUR DOLL, DO YOU, DOCTOR VALDEZ? COME INSIDE THE HOUSE!
NO... NO... NOT THAT! GIVE ME MY DOLL! I DO NOT WISH TO SEE ANYONE!!

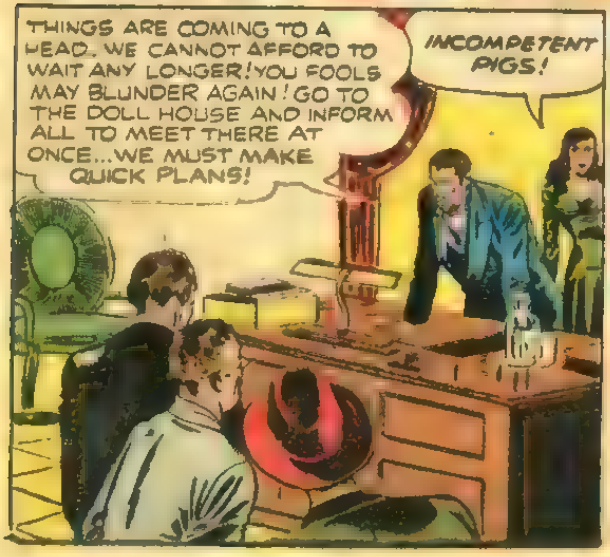
GO AWAY!
THE DOLL BUSINESS AGAIN! DO YOU THINK IT'S THE STORY GATES WAS ON?
PROBABLY! THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT ALL THIS--- LET'S GO AROUND THE BACK...I'D LIKE TO GET A SHOT OF VALDEZ AND THAT DOLL!


OHHH...FLASH! LOOK THERE!!

THE DOLL... IT LOOKS LIKE... LIKE GATES!
WITH A PIN THROUGH THE HEART! GREAT SCOTT!!!


WH-WHAT COULD IT BE?
IT MEANS ONE THING...MURDER! I'M SURE THESE RATS HAD SOME-THING TO DO WITH GATE'S DEATH!--HE MUST'VE BEEN CLOSE TO BLOWING THIS DOLL BUSINESS WIDE OPEN...LET'S GET AN EARFULL IN THAT HOUSE!


PSST! THERE'S OUR TWO PLAYMATES WHO TRIED TO STOP ME FROM TAKING A PICTURE!
FOOLS! YOU MADE HIM SUSPICIOUS BY FIGHTING HIM! HE WILL BE NOSEY LIKE THE OTHER ONE!


THINGS ARE COMING TO A HEAD. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER! YOU FOOLS MAY BLUNDER AGAIN! GO TO THE DOLL HOUSE AND INFORM ALL TO MEET THERE AT ONCE...WE MUST MAKE QUICK PLANS!
INCOMPETENT PIGS!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, AMY? THEY'RE GOING TO THEIR "DOLL HOUSE"! I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THAT...AND THE ONLY WAY TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY IS TO FOLLOW THEM...LET'S GO!

FLASH AND AMY QUIETY FOLLOW THE TWO GANG MEMBERS WHO LEAD THEM TO A HOUSE IN A WOODED SECTION...

SO THAT'S THEIR HANGOUT! THEY'RE ALL WEARING *DOLL-LIKE MASKS!* FLASH! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

THE IDEA IS TO GET IN THERE...AND HERE COMES ONE MORE WHO IS GOING TO GIVE ME MY ADMISSION TICKET!

THIS IS YOUR LAST STOP, BROTHER!!

ACH!

WAK!

YOU CAN STOP HITTING HIM, FLASH...HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT!

GET SOME VINES! I WANT TO TIE... THIS ONE...UP!!

CRACK

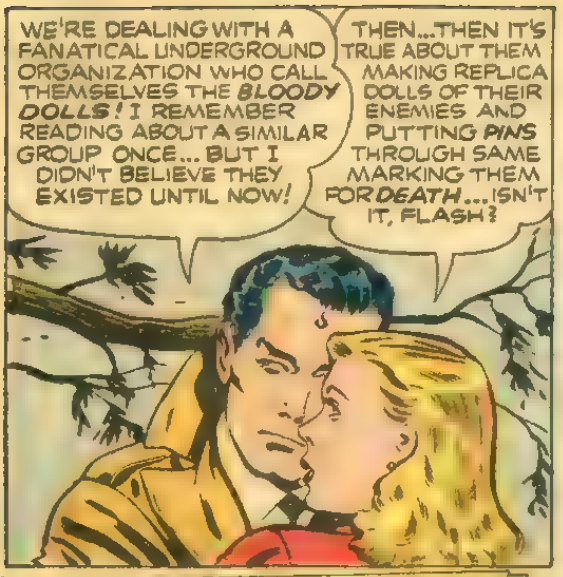
YOU WAIT OUT HERE WITH THIS CHARACTER! I'M GOING TO TAKE HIS PLACE AT THAT LITTLE *MEETING* IN THERE!

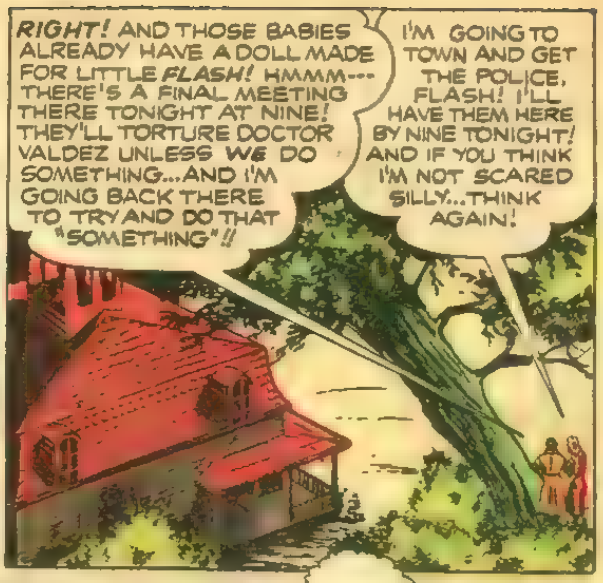
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, FLASH...YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO... TO GATES!

INSIDE THE "DOLL HOUSE"

THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND! IT IS NECESSARY FOR VALDEZ TO GIVE US HIS EXPLOSIVE FORMULA *AT ONCE!!* TONIGHT I WILL BRING HIM HERE...AND HE MUST BE MADE TO *TALK!* BUT THERE IS A *NEW* DOLL THAT MUST BE CRUSHED!

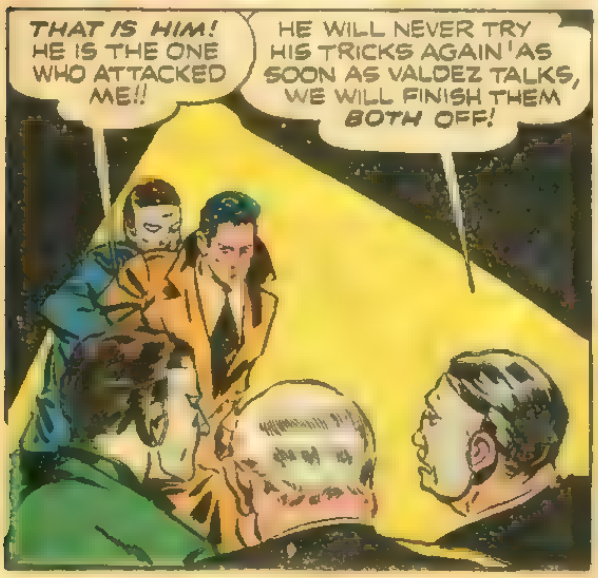
SEE?--*THIS* IS THE ONE WHO MUST DIE AS THE OTHER NOSEY ONE DID... HIM THEY CALLED GATES! *MARK THIS FACE WELL!!* WE MEET HERE TONIGHT AT NINE...*LONG LIVE THE BLOODY DOLL SOCIETY!!!*


WE'RE DEALING WITH A FANATICAL UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE BLOODY DOLLS! I REMEMBER READING ABOUT A SIMILAR GROUP ONCE... BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE THEY EXISTED UNTIL NOW!
THEN...THEN IT'S TRUE ABOUT THEM MAKING REPLICA DOLLS OF THEIR ENEMIES AND PUTTING PINS THROUGH SAME MARKING THEM FOR DEATH...ISN'T IT, FLASH?

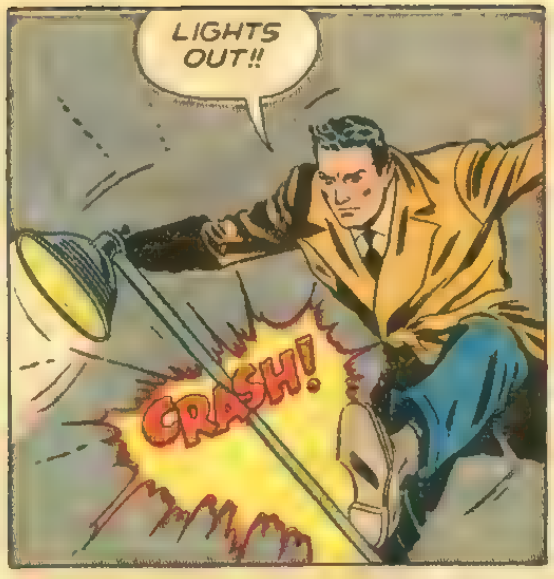

RIGHT! AND THOSE BABIES ALREADY HAVE A DOLL MADE FOR LITTLE FLASH! HMMM--- THERE'S A FINAL MEETING THERE TONIGHT AT NINE! THEY'LL TORTURE DOCTOR VALDEZ UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING...AND I'M GOING BACK THERE TO TRY AND DO THAT "SOMETHING"!!
I'M GOING TO TOWN AND GET THE POLICE, FLASH! I'LL HAVE THEM HERE BY NINE TONIGHT! AND IF YOU THINK I'M NOT SCARED SILLY...THINK AGAIN!

THAT NIGHT...AT NINE O'CLOCK...
I MUST TAKE THE CHANCE...THEY HAVE DR. VALDEZ IN THERE!

DON'T MOVE, YOU DOG!
UH-OH...


THAT IS HIM! HE IS THE ONE WHO ATTACKED ME!!
HE WILL NEVER TRY HIS TRICKS AGAIN! AS SOON AS VALDEZ TALKS, WE WILL FINISH THEM BOTH OFF!

AND THIS TIME YOU WILL TALK, DR. VALDEZ!
NEVER!! MY FORMULA GOES TO THE UNITED NATIONS! YOU KILLERS SHALL NEVER HAVE IT!


LIGHTS OUT!!
CRASH!

WE HAVE HIM! QUICK...PUT THE OVERHEAD LIGHTS ON!!!

THE SWITCH IS FLICKED AND THE ROOM IS SUDDENLY ROCKED WITH A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS...
AIEEE!!! WE ARE SURROUNDED! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!!
BLAM!
BANG!
BLAM!
BANG!

THERE'LL BE NO TORTURE TONIGHT, RAT!
LET ME OUT! THE POLICE ARE SHOOTING!!
WHAP!

WE GOT THE WHOLE GANG, - FLASH! HOW IS DOCTOR VALDEZ?
THANKS TO THIS YOUNG MAN...I'M ALIVE AND WELL!

MY EXPLOSIVE WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE UNITED NATIONS, YOUNG MAN! THOSE FIENDS HELD ME A PRISONER BY CONSTANTLY DRUGGING ME...BUT THE POLICE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM NOW!
FLASH...WHAT WERE THOSE EXPLOSIONS I HEARD? SOUNDED LIKE THE WHOLE PLACE WAS BLOWING UP!

REMEMBER WHEN I WENT BACK BY MYSELF EARLY TODAY? WELL...I SUBSTITUTED CAMERA FLASH BULBS FOR THEIR ELECTRIC LIGHTS! WHEN I BROKE THEIR SPOTLIGHT, THEY HAD TO THROW THE SWITCH ON FOR THE OTHER LIGHTS...AND I GUESS THEY ARE STILL WONDERING WHAT HIT THEM!

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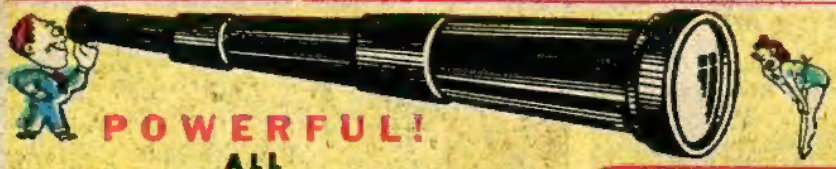

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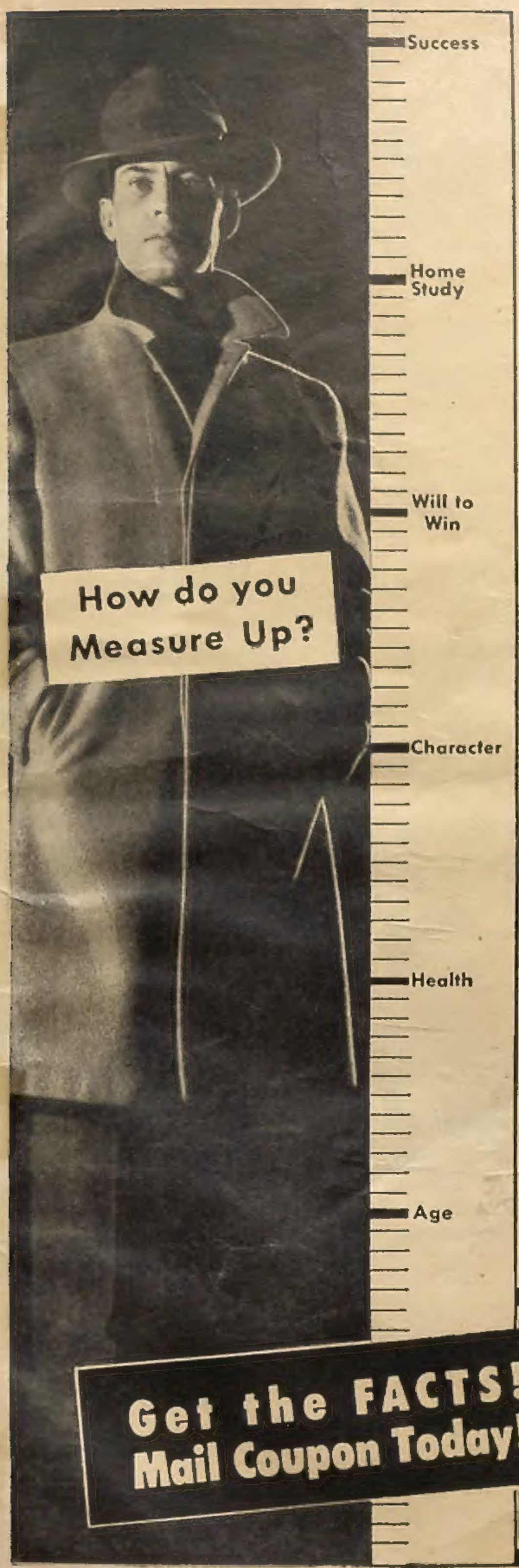

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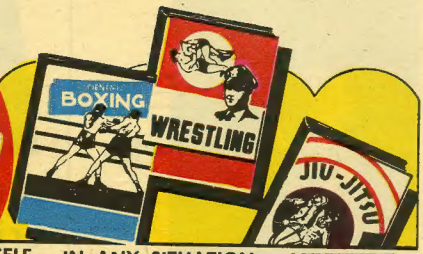

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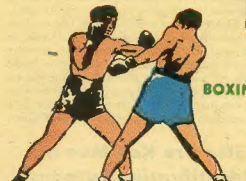

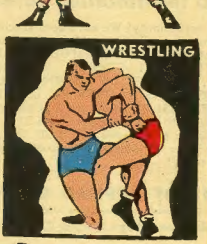

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